

TOMORROW

Can the United States ever bring peace to the Middle East? As Israel and Lebanon sign the latest in the long line of American-backed peace plans for the region, Mr Philip Habib, Mr Reagan's special envoy, heads for Damascus. Edward Mortimer assesses the strengths and weaknesses of US diplomacy. Who are the key personal advisers around Labour leader Michael Foot as he sets out on the campaign trail? In the second part of Spectrum's special election series Nicholas Wapshott provides some surprising answers. Plus the first shots from John Partridge in his election column on behalf of the Alliance. Roger Scruton's defence of South Africa and Suzy Menkes on the return of fun to fashion.

Collapse of walls risk to houses

Many homes in several parts of Britain are at risk because of corrosion in the ties that hold cavity walls together. In extreme cases there is a possibility of walls collapsing, and the necessary repairs can cost up to £20,000. **Page 3**

Chile protests

More than 100 arrests have been made in Chile after last week's violence prompted by growing frustration over the free-enterprise policies introduced by President Pinochet since Allende's overthrow. **Page 6**

Burial find

A couple with a metal detector have found a burial site on a farm on the South Downs which experts think could shed new light on the period after the Roman exodus. **Page 3**

Stern sit-in

Stern journalists are continuing to occupy the magazine's Hamburg offices in protest at the appointment of two right-wing editors. **Page 5**

Marbles spirit

Lord Elgin said he approved of the return of the Elgin Marbles to Greece if it was part of a worldwide attempt to recreate and recapture the spirit of Parthenon architecture. **Page 3**

Brief car boom

British car sales, after a brief and unexpected boom, will begin to fall in the next few months, according to the DRI Europe research group. **Page 17**

Cruise threats

Threats have been made by telephone against Tarmac, the company which is building silos for cruise missiles at Greenham Common air base. **Page 2**

Stores battle

Linford, the supermarket group, said it would match a £40m increased offer from Safeway for the Key Markets chain. **Page 17**

Merger move

Delegates at the public employees' union conference will be asked to take steps to encourage a merger with the health service union. **Page 2**

Etna rethink

Scientists and technicians were considering the use of bulldozers in attempts to stop the lava flow from Mount Etna, after the partial failure of explosives. **Page 5**

Monaco winner

Keke Rosberg, the Finnish world champion, drove his British-built Cosworth Williams to victory in the Monaco Grand Prix. **Page 19**

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Thatcher will fly by Concorde to Williamsburg

● The Prime Minister has decided to fly by Concorde to the Williamsburg summit on May 28, interrupting her campaign.

● "The curse of mass unemployment" will be the main feature of Labour's attack on the Tory record, Mr Foot said yesterday.

● Labour has selected Mr John Tilley to fight Bermondsey, the seat lost in February by Mr Peter Tatchell.

● Mrs Barbara Castle, the former Labour minister, asks whether the Iron Lady is losing her mettle (Page 10).

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Prime Minister has decided to interrupt her election campaign to attend the economic summit of the seven main Western economic powers at Williamsburg, Virginia, at the end of May. But she will fly by Concorde, leaving London two days later than was first planned, and returning about twelve hours earlier than planned.

An announcement confirming that she has resolved her doubts is expected soon.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher has several times said publicly that she wanted to attend, and Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, have strongly advised it.

But the Conservative Party's campaign planners were nervous at the prospect of her being absent from the country for several days within two weeks of polling day. That and her natural caution have combined to delay a public statement.

At first Mrs Thatcher was to have paid a two-day official visit to Washington before going on to Williamsburg. Those arrangements were cancelled last week.

The travel plans now agreed between Conservative Central

Office and Downing Street entail an outward flight by Concorde to Washington on Saturday, May 28, and a return flight, also by Concorde, via New York on the evening of Monday, May 30.

That will mean the loss of only one day's campaigning, the Saturday, because the Conservatives by tradition hesitate to appear on the hustings on Sunday; the Monday, being a

round-trip ticket will cost rather more than £2,400.

Mr Michael Foot criticized Mrs Thatcher yesterday for indecision over attending the Williamsburg summit to which Labour attached much importance. The party wanted to see a big effort there to get the world back to full employment in international as well as national terms, he said.

He criticized her for saying, in an interview with *The Times* last week, that she did not expect to see "some new formula" agreed there to get the world out of recession.

Of the main parties, the Conservatives will be last in the field with their manifesto, which will be published on Wednesday. That has not inhibited their campaigning, however.

Central Office has no knowledge of any platform speeches by prominent Conservatives today; nevertheless, they are trooping to the broadcasting studios to open fire on the Labour manifesto as soon as it appears this morning.

Mrs Thatcher will be interviewed on ITN's *News at One* and *News at Ten*; Mr Cecil Parkinson will be on BBC radio's *World at One*.

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public holiday, is regarded by all the parties as likely to prove a wasted day.

Sir Geoffrey, Mr Pym, and officials will be travelling in the Royal Air Force VC10 which would have carried the Prime Minister, so the cost of Concorde tickets for her and her immediate staff will be borne by the Conservative Party. Each

Tatchell 'successor' named

Mr John Tilley, whose present Lambeth Central seat disappears under boundary changes, was selected last night to fight the Southwark, Bermondsey seat for Labour. In Nottingham South, Mr Ken Coates, who was once expelled from the Labour Party for his views, was chosen.

A veteran left-wing campaigner, Mr Coates, returned from the European Disarmament Conference in Berlin to take part in the selection procedure for the new constituency.

A university lecturer, he had been active in the running of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation and the Institute for Workers' Control.

In 1965, while president of Nottingham City Labour Party, he was expelled from party membership after attacking Labour Party policy on Vietnam. He was reinstated after five years.

Mr Coates faced five other candidates in the selection conference, including Mr Eric Moonman, the former Labour MP for Basildon. Mr Michael English, who was Labour MP for Nottingham West, which disappears under reorganization, decided not to contest the seat.

Mr Tilley, aged 41, and an MP since a by-election in April 1978, sought the Southwark, Bermondsey nomination after the decision by Mr Peter Tatchell last month not to reappear for it. Mr Tatchell lost a bitterly-contested by-election in the south London seat in February to Mr Simon Hughes of the Liberal-SDP Alliance.



Mr Coates (left) and Mr Tilley

Foot calls for 'spirit of Darlington'

By Philip Webster
Political Reporter

Mr Michael Foot gave notice yesterday that what he called the curse of mass unemployment would be the principal feature of Labour's record during the general election campaign. Unemployment could only be tackled by the "drastic" methods contained in his party's strategy for expanding the economy, he said.

Labour was going to change the opinion polls, which were "not very agreeable" at the moment, Mr Foot declared. What would happen over the coming weeks was that Labour would "get the spirit of Darlington up and down the country", the spirit which had changed the whole atmosphere in the course of a campaign.

On the eve of the publication of the Labour manifesto, Mr Foot set out to rebut the charge that his party's plans for a multi-million pound refutation of the economy in its first year would lead to fast-rising inflation, and defended the increased government borrowing that would be required to implement it.

Mr Foot said that refutation need not be accompanied by inflation if it was accomplished properly. Other countries had big budget deficits but their inflation rate had not risen.

"It should be the aim of policies to control inflation but above all else to deal with unemployment," he said on the BBC radio programme, *The World This Weekend*.

Mr Foot said the money for Labour's alternative programme would come from North Sea oil revenues, which he said the Government was "pouring down the drain" on mass unemployment, from the reduced amount that would need to be paid out in unemployment benefit with the creation of jobs, and from borrowing.

"If we do not tackle the problem in this drastic long-term method, we will have unemployment at four million to five million for many years



Mr Michael Foot: Drastic methods needed

ahead. If that happens it will destroy everything else."

Mr Foot predicted that Mrs Thatcher would be promising tax cuts during the election. "The short sharp reason why Mrs Thatcher has not carried out the pledge she gave at the last election to cut taxes was because she has had to increase them to pay for mass unemployment."

The Labour Party was not in favour of scrapping Britain's defences, "as the Tories lyingly say". Labour was not in favour of scrapping the NATO alliance, but it was in favour of establishing a non-nuclear defence policy.

If cruise missiles were deployed in Britain it would make the achievement of any future arms-control agreement "well-nigh impossible," Mr Foot said.

"We are determined not to go for a policy which would stop arms control agreements being made," he added. "We are determined to lead the way in stopping the nuclear arms race."

Mr Foot said that there were some things on which the Russians were talking sense. To say that they did not want to secure nuclear superiority over the United States was a sensible approach. "It would mean an appalling burden on their economy," he said.

Mr Foot was at pains to emphasize that the defence policy to be outlined in Labour's manifesto today had the agreement of Mr Denis Healey, his deputy leader. "We have discussed together, we have worked together."

The outlook is for rain followed by rain

By Clive Cookson

The Meteorological Office weather computers foresee no end to the steady stream of Atlantic depressions which have already made this spring one of the wettest on record.

One large system of low pressure is expected to drift across Britain during the week, keeping up the showers that have saturated the country for the past two months, and the computer-generated weather maps show yet another low moving in next weekend.

The powerful new Cyber computer at the Met Office in Bracknell has been issuing remarkably accurate predictions this year, up to a week

ahead, but it is not programmed to look beyond that, and official long-range forecasts are no longer issued. Some unofficial forecasters see the rains lasting well into June - and that is as far as any reputable weatherman will go.

Yesterday, heavy showers moved up the eastern side of the country, giving the London Weather Centre another half inch of rain and bringing May's total so far to 1.5 inches - close to the average of 1.5 inches for the whole month. April's rainfall, 3.9 inches, was a new record for that month.

Official meteorological spokesmen remain anxious to play down the peculiarity of the

wet weather. It is just an ordinary fluctuation of the sort that sees Britain some sort of abnormal weather every year, they say, so special factors, such as from Mexico's El Chichon volcano, is required to explain our soggy spring. The atmospheric circulation is bringing excessive rainfall to the whole of Western Europe, while Russia basks in unusual warmth and sunshine.

For an unusual spell of unpleasant weather, this wet spring is behaving quite well. The rain is falling regularly day after day, normally in manageable quantities, rather than in a few great deluges, so the water has a chance to run



Keep Falklands out of election, says Nott

Sir John Nott, the former defence Secretary, said yesterday that it would be deplorable if the Falklands war figured in the general election campaign.

His appeal is apparently directed as much to his former Cabinet colleagues, including Mrs Thatcher, not to make political capital out of the British victory, as to members

of the Opposition who attacked the Government's handling of the Falklands issue.

Sir John, photographed at his farm in Cornwall, told *The Times* in his first interview since he left Mrs Thatcher's cabinet: "The Falklands has happened and it was a success but I would not want it to figure in the general election campaign."

He said it had contributed importantly to the restoration of self-confidence in Britain, which was already well under way when the Falklands crisis began, but that the loss of life that resulted was a tragedy and should not become a party political issue during the election campaign. Photograph: David Breachley.

Fell interview, page 4

Arms race is US fault - Mortimer

From Paul Routledge
Labour Editor
Scarborough

Mr James Mortimer, general secretary of the Labour Party, yesterday laid the blame for the acceleration of the nuclear arms race firmly at the door of the United States and President Reagan in particular.

In a departure from his peripatetic tour on the issue he told the National Union of Public Employees' conference in Scarborough: "The initiative for the latest round in the arms race comes primarily from the US, and we should recognize that."

When the US and the Soviet Union concluded the draft strategic arms limitation Treaty four years ago, the Soviet Government had ratified it but the American Congress, prompted by politicians such as Mr Reagan, had declined to do so.

"We believe that there should be an independent British initiative," Mr Mortimer said. "The Russians and Americans had sufficient nuclear weapons to blow up the world several times over and the addition of nuclear weapons by Britain did not add to the cause of peace."

"All it does is provide justification for the proliferation of nuclear weapons throughout the world. If it is good enough for Britain, it is good enough for Argentina, East Germany, Israel and the Arab states. It would justify the possession of nuclear weapons by all nations."

He added: "The existence of nuclear weapons and bases, particularly US bases in Britain, ensures that in the event of war we become an immediate target for annihilation. We have better things to do with the scarce resources in Britain than to add to nuclear weapons and bases."

NUPE workers are preparing a campaign of civil disobedience to disrupt the Government's nuclear defence exercises. Their leaders agreed yesterday to encourage the establishment of Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament groups in workplaces.

Delegates voted overwhelmingly to call on 700,000 employees of the public services not to cooperate with any civil defence exercises and promised union protection for conscientious objectors.

Pym wants deal on rebate by June 9

From Ian Murray, Gymnich

The British Government wants agreement on the size of its 1983 EEC budget rebate before the election on June 9. Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, made this clear to his community counterparts at their informal meeting in the 17th century castle here over the weekend.

He left no doubt that he would be looking for a firm commitment for a rebate of about £800m of the £1,200m Britain is expected to owe the community this year. And he appeared more confident that he would succeed than he has for some time.

After the meeting he said that because a general election was pending it seems to be making negotiations easier. But if Mr Pym was "reasonably encouraged", there was an ominous warning from M Claude Cheysson, the French minister, that there could be no short-term deal unless there was major progress on solving the tangled long-term future financing agreement for the community.

The major difficulties surrounding negotiations on the long term deal make it difficult to imagine real progress before the Stuttgart European summit on June 6.

West Germany, now holding the presidency of the Council of Ministers, is therefore making a last effort to try to reconcile the many differences before the foreign ministers meet again. Over the week to come Herr Hans Werner Lautenschlager, the junior West German Foreign Minister, will be touring EEC capitals to try to discover the answer to a number of specific questions before next week's meeting.

There seemed little doubt that the British Government intended to be firm in its demands. Mr Pym told his colleagues that it was a pity things were coming to a head, but this was because they had failed to honour last year's agreement to settle the problem by last November. He said after the meeting that Britain wanted to have figures agreed at next week's meeting which could be agreed by the Stuttgart summit.

Continued on back page, col 5

Papal envoy stands by CND attack

By Nicholas Timmins

Archbishop Bruno Heim, the Pope's representative in Britain, appears determined to stand by his attack on Mr Bruce Kent, general secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, despite the anger it has caused.

Archbishop Heim, who is convalescing in a clinic in West Germany after an operation in Britain, could not be contacted yesterday, but Mr Peter Bander, a friend of the pro-nuncio, and his publisher, said that the archbishop had told him he "did not wish to withdraw a single comma" from his statement.

Mr Bander, who emphasized that he was not acting as a spokesman for the archbishop, said he spoke to Mr Heim on Saturday, after details of a letter the archbishop is sending to members of the public who write to him appeared in *The Times*.

Cardinal Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, went out of his way at the weekend to support Mr Kent. He said: "I have great respect for Mr Kent personally and for his integrity and commitment to peace."

He had renewed Mr Kent's permission to work for CND, he said, and there could be no difference among Christians over the ultimate aim of preventing nuclear war.

Mr Heim's letter said that whether those advocating unilateralism were consciously sharing the Soviet ideology, were "useful idiots" or "blinded idealists" would have to be judged in individual cases, "even in that of Bruce Kent".

The Roman Catholic Bishop in East London, Mr Victor Guzzardi, said the pro-nuncio did not have the right to express the views in the public way he did.

War the only way, warning by Arafat

Damascus (Reuters) - Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization leader, yesterday said war was now the only way to change the balance of power in the Middle East, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported.

The agency said Mr Arafat was speaking to military officials of his Fatah group and to other PLO officials in Damascus.

"Emergence from the present Arab impasse would be by adoption of the fighting decision and war on an official Arab level to change the balance of power in the region", the agency quoted Mr Arafat as saying.

"Effective war on the practical level is the only available means now of recharting the political map through an Arab military movement supporting the Palestinian-Lebanese national struggle."

The PLO would upset "imperialist American plans and say 'no' to Reagan and the programmes of his aggressive administration for hegemony over the Arab region and control of its destinies", Mr Arafat said.

"The PLO will resume its role of struggle to rehabilitate the Arab situation and emerge from the current Arab impasse."

It was one of the toughest statements Mr Arafat had made in several months and came amid tension in eastern Lebanon, where Israeli troops are facing Syrian and PLO forces.

Mr Arafat's remarks appeared to reflect his recent shift towards hardline Syria and away from moderate Jordan, with whom his talks on Middle East peace efforts broke down last month.

His statement also coincided with warnings in the official Syrian media that Syria would try to torpedo a deal for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon, expected to be signed this week.

Commenting on reports of a split among Palestinian fighters in eastern Lebanon, Mr Arafat said two visits he had made to their positions on Friday and Saturday had shown that "all Palestinian ranks and leadership are completely disciplined and committed to the unified Palestinian decision and Palestinian national unity".

Wafa reported earlier that Mr Arafat intended to make more trips to his men's positions in the Bekaa valley in Lebanon. His visit on Friday was the first since he quit Beirut last August during the Israeli siege.

MAJID HADAD, Major Saad Haddad, the Israel-backed militia leader, said yesterday that the Lebanese Government would declare a "war of liberation" against Syria if it refused to withdraw its estimated 43,000 troops from eastern and northern Lebanon.

Syrians dig in, page 5
Leading article, page 13

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Merger talks planned for 'super union' to unite a million

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

A new "super union" that highlighted the need for co-ordination of a million workers in government employment is being planned.

Delegates to the policy conference of the National Union of Public Employees (Nupe) will be urged today by their leaders to approach the Confederation of Health Service Employees (Cohse) for a closer working relationship in the wake of last year's marathon National Health service strike.

Mr Rodney Bickerton, general secretary of Nupe, said last night that such a step would be a "logical move" for two public service unions seeking to end low pay and forestall job cuts and the "privatization" of services.

Informal contacts on the setting up of a liaison committee between the two unions were held just before the recent death of Mr Albert Spanswick, general secretary of Cohse, and those discussions were regarded as the first step towards a possible amalgamation.

The name of the new union would probably be the Confederation of Public Employees. If it is established it will represent nearly a million workers in the NHS, local government, universities, the water industry and similar services.

It would be in size with the giant engineering union and become the third largest affiliate to the Labour Party, with a block vote of about 800,000.

The motion being discussed today comes from seven hospital and district branches of Nupe. It calls on delegates to recognize that the experience of last year's pay dispute "has

The dispute demonstrated the desire for maximum unity and joint action by most NHS workers.

The motion continues: "Confederate therefore calls upon the executive council to begin positive negotiations through the officers of the TUC on the question of Nupe's amalgamation with other health service trade unions."

"In particular, conference proposes that the union immediately starts discussions and negotiations with Cohse on the possibilities of an amalgamation or federation into one union."

Similar proposals from branches will be discussed at the Cohse policy conference in mid-June. Industrial logic points towards a merger but there are some political differences between the two unions, with Nupe supporting the left within the Labour party on most issues while Cohse is traditionally regarded as a right-wing union.

Cohse's general secretary, Mr David Williams, was elected to the Labour Party national executive committee with right-wing support, while Nupe's deputy general secretary, Mr John Sawyer, won a seat on the executive with left-wing backing.

However, minor changes in the composition of Nupe's executive, which yesterday confirmed the left in its strong position, are unlikely to affect the merger discussions.

Union may black rig firm to aid dismissed divers

From Our Correspondent, Glasgow

Sub-Sea Offshore, the American firm which dismissed 26 divers at the weekend for taking part in a sit-in on a North Sea production platform, has been threatened with industrial action by the National Union of Seamen (NUS).

The union says it will shut down 14 Sub-Sea Offshore work sites and black three support vessels unless the firm's management enters into talks on union recognition by tomorrow. Mr Warren Duncan, the union's spokesman for divers, said he had teleaxed the com-

pany last week suggesting a cooling-off period, followed by discussions over union recognition and the fate of the 16 divers. "If the deadline is not met, we have only one choice, we would call an official dispute," he added.

The dismissed divers are all members of the Professional Divers' Association. Their sit-in, over union recognition and bonuses, ended last week after interunion arguments and a court interdict ordering them to leave Chevron's Ninian North-east platform.

Odhams printing plant in Watford to be closed

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Mr Robert Maxwell, chairman of the British Printing and Communications Corporation, has announced the closure of Odhams plant in Watford, Hertfordshire, which employs 1,600 workers.

It will be merged with Sun Printers, also in Watford, to create, Mr Maxwell said, "one of the most competitive, varied and efficient printing services in the world".

The company had agreed with four unions representing engineers, electricians and printers on the "orderly closure" of Odhams and the creation of a new division known as Odhams-Sun Printers.

Timex settlement fails

By Our Labour Reporter

On Friday, the company postponed court action to remove the occupying workers, but it will now press for a writ when the hearing at the Edinburgh Court of Session reconvenes on Wednesday.

Occupation of the factory began when 120 employees refused to accept compulsory redundancy, supported by 220 others dismissed last week. The company offered to rescind the dismissals and enforce redundancies for 90 days while voluntary severances were sought. If sufficient volunteers did not come forward, redun-

dancy would become compulsory again.

Miners at Cardowan colliery, near Glasgow, were unrepresented yesterday over the rough handling they gave Mr Albert Wheeler, the Scottish National Coal Board director.

About a hundred voted overwhelmingly to begin an official dispute to fight the proposed closure of their pit at Shotts, near Glasgow. A branch meeting of the national Union of Mineworkers in Glasgow agreed to invoke nationally agreed colliery review procedures.



Campaign commentators: Members of the BBC's team to cover the election photographed on the eve of intensive broadcasting of the campaign. They are (front row, left to right) David Dimbleby, Sue Lawley, Jan Leeming, Robin Day; (back row) John Timpson, John Tusa, Jimmy Young, Nick Ross, Fred Emery, Peter Snow. (Photograph: Chris Harris)

Youth jobs publicity to go ahead

By a Staff Reporter

A £1m government advertising campaign for the new Youth Training Scheme is to start today, in spite of Whitehall fears that it may be seen as politically controversial. The Manpower Services Commission (MSC), which operates the scheme, had imposed a publicity blackout, this was relaxed during the weekend with the agreement of the main political parties.

The television advertising is intended to tell 400,000 youths aged 16 who are due to leave school during the next two months that the Government will pay them £25 a week to train for a year in industry or community projects. The MSC has spent £2m on persuading employers to provide the training.

The scheme is bound to play a large part in Conservative claims to be tackling unemployment; and though the opposition parties support the idea of youth training, this particular scheme has been fiercely attacked by some Labour leaders, including Mr Neil Kinnock, the shadow Education Secretary.

Whitehall fears that the advertising might be seen to be propping up capital for the Tories has been heightened by the fact that Mr David Young, the businessman brought in to run the Manpower Services Commission, is a close political ally of Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Employment, and Sir Keith Joseph.

Mr Young has agreed to remain silent until after the election and cancelled a scheduled appearance at a public event in Sunderland last Tuesday.

Poverty wages are an important cause of economic wastage and inefficiency as well as hardship and injustice, the Low Pay Unit states in a booklet published today (our Labour Reporter writes).

The unit argues for a legally enforced national minimum wage for the seven million low paid workers who earn less than £90 a week.

The report, *The Case for a National Minimum Wage*, estimates that the number of families forced to rely on family income supplement has doubled since 1979, and it blames government policies for the deteriorating position of the low paid.

Firm threatened over silos

By Nicholas Timmins

Threats have been made against Tarmac, which is building the Greenham Common cruise missile silos, the company said yesterday.

A telephone call to the company's head office in Bilston, in the West Midlands, warned it of attacks on employees unless the company gives up the contract. A call to one of Tarmac's Yorkshire depots said that trucks would be burnt.

In South Yorkshire tyres have been left down on lorries in Tarmac's livery and driven by owner-drivers, and CND symbols have been daubed on a show house in gloss paint.

A Tarmac spokesman said the telephone calls had come from people "purporting to be supporters of the peace movement. But we would be very surprised if CND were involved in this."

CND is running a campaign against Tarmac and there have been demonstrations outside Tarmac offices, but the company spokesman said: "In our dealings with CND they have always been peaceful and amicable; there has been no hostility."

Mrs Joan Riddock, chairman of CND, said the threats had no connexion with CND.

"We have a working party dealing with the issues of firms involved in nuclear preparations, but that group, like all our other groups, is committed to non-violence and our campaign has never, and will never, endorse violent action, or threats of that nature."

Women from the Greenham Common peace camp launched an appeal for funds yesterday, saying the camp had reached a crisis over its future.

The appeal came after bailiffs evicted the women from land near the base impounded three cars to sell if the women do not pay £1,000 in costs awarded by the High Court and a further £1,000 for the eviction.

Miss Jane Hickman, the women's solicitor, said: "The financial situation at Greenham is extremely serious because the women at the camp have incurred a lot of expenditure on leaflets, transport and recent legal action."

Mrs Helen John, one of the peace women, described the council's move as "legalized theft". One of the impounded cars belonged to a German woman visiting the camp who was not involved in the earlier actions, and Mrs John said none of the

cars belonged to women named in the High Court action.

She said the financial crisis would make it difficult for the women to sustain their action, but they would remain at the camp whatever happened.

A fund to help people who get into financial difficulties as a result of civil disobedience and non-violent direct action against nuclear bases and other military installations is to be launched.

The Peacemakers' Relief Society has been created with the support of the Quakers, peace campaigners and leading figures in CND at a time when direct action against nuclear bases is about to increase.

The fund stands at about £2,000 and has made three grants of £250 each to two peace camps and £100 for a Greenham Common woman to obtain counsel's opinion.

Founders of the fund include the Rev Dr Kenneth Greet, secretary of the Methodist Conference and co-chairman of the World Disarmament Campaign, Mr Malcolm Harper, Director of the United Nations Association, and Mrs Joan Riddock, chairman of CND.

Sellafield cancer link rejected

By Ronald Faux

Renewed speculation on links between increases in cancer cases in Cumbria and radiation emissions from the Sellafield nuclear complex has been rejected by a specialist in community medicine in the region.

Dr Peter Tiplady, health officer for east Cumbria and author of a report on the incidence of cancer in the county, said that the 60 per cent increase between 1979 and 1980 in the number of cases among men of myeloma, a particularly virulent form of bone cancer, could not be laid at the door of Sellafield.

Myeloma may be caused by radiation, and the disease was highlighted in a recent television documentary about Cumbria.

"It would be very speculative to suggest a connexion," Dr Tiplady said. "Seven cases of myeloma were reported in south-west Cumbria when the statistical average suggested there should be only 4.5 cases in a two-year period. That was a 60 per cent increase. In the whole of the Barrow-in-Furness district there was a total of 538 cancer cases in that time."

Dr Tiplady added that while the increase could be influenced by different diagnostic procedures, it was generally felt that it was real rather than artificial, and something the medical authorities in the area would be looking at. Work had begun to discover whether any of the myeloma sufferers were former Sellafield workers.

"It is not an alarming increase in itself, and I am not convinced in any way that it is related to the nuclear presence in west Cumbria."

MPs told committees may not query security bodies

By Peter Hennessy

The Government has denied that Commons select committees have the right to inquire into the Security Service (MIS), the Secret Intelligence Service (M16) or the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ).

The all-party liaison committee, the body comprising all select committee chairmen, was due to meet last Thursday to discuss the Government's statement, which was contained in a letter to their chairman, Mr Edward du Cann, Conservative MP for Taunton. Their meeting was cancelled because of the calling of the general election.

The letter, sent by Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, reaffirms the convention that ministers shall not provide Parliament with information on the security and intelligence services, or answer questions about their activities.

A new Conservative government might be prepared to allow more access and information for select committees, which would meet in camera to discuss sensitive material.

Thatcher's 'rough style' disturbed Whitehall

By a Staff Reporter

Mrs Margaret Thatcher entered Downing Street ready to be "very unreasonable" and give civil servants hell until she was satisfied they were producing results, Sir John Hoskyns, her former senior policy adviser, will disclose in a television interview tonight.

Speaking on the *Panorama* programme on BBC 1, entitled *Who Rules Britain?*, Sir John tells Mr Michael Cockerell: "I think that it was such a departure from the rather gentlemanly style of Whitehall that people took it rather sensitively."

Whitehall's attitudes and performance will be defended in the programme by Sir Douglas Wass, who retired last month as Permanent Secretary to the Treasury. He describes as "most unfair" Sir John's claim that senior officials adopted a policy of giving Mrs Thatcher time in the expectation that experience would blunt her radicalism.

"I would not say the present Government was immune to scepticism completely... I had a great many instances in the last four years of ministers deciding to do things which perhaps we had reservations about... but we have implemented them."

Sale room

Enthusiastic bidding for royal jewels

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The romance of royalty was underlined by Sotheby's week-end sales. A Geneva jewel sale included state regalia of the Qajar rulers of Iran, unseated by the Pahlevis in 1925, and they were bid far beyond the estimate.

In New York Sotheby's sold lacquer with a royal Japanese provenance and the bidding was equally enthusiastic. In Geneva a cushion-cut diamond weighing 74.65 carats mounted with a border of small diamonds, a pin, an aigrette to the military cap of the last Qajar shah, Ahmed - as attested by a late photograph - sold for 462,000 Swiss francs (estimate 300,000 to 400,000 francs) or £137,910.

There was also his imperial dress sword, the front of the hilt and scabbard encrusted with rose-cut diamonds, at 143,000 francs (estimate 40,000-70,000 francs) or £42,686.

On the death of Ahmed both items passed to his heirs and thence to his grandchildren, who had sent them for sale.

The three-session Geneva jewel sale on Friday totalled £3,427,246, with 39 per cent left unsold. Sotheby's commented that there were plenty of people buying, but they shied away from lots with high reserves.

Sotheby's New York sale of Japanese works of art included a black and gold lacquer writing set made for the imperial household and recorded as belonging to the Emperor Meiji by 1836. They were presented to a private collector in Washington in exchange for a biological abstract. His descendants had spent them for sale.

The Suzuribako (writing table) made \$27,300 (estimate

Woman who knew spy stood in local poll

By John Witherow

The woman who was condemned by the Security Commission for not exposing Geoffrey Prime, the spy, stood unsuccessfully as a Conservative candidate in the local elections on May 5.

Miss Dorothy Barsby, who failed to report Prime's spying for the Russians while he was working at the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) at Cheltenham, won only 92 votes in Swanscombe ward in Dartford, Kent, and came last in a field of six.

She was proposed by Mr Tony Gillham, chairman of the Dartford Conservative Party, who described her yesterday as "attractive, intelligent and a good conversationalist who was interested in party matters."

Miss Barsby was later selected by a committee to fight a ward that had been a Labour stronghold. "To some extent she was a paper candidate. She was never going to be elected, but some of them, go on to better things," Mr Gillham said.

Miss Barsby, aged 34, is a friend of Prime's first wife, Helena, who told her that Prime had confessed to spying for the Russians nine years before he was caught.

Neither woman approached the police and Miss Barsby, a former personnel officer who had lived in Dartford for 18 months, told an MIS investigating officer that she knew of no reason why Prime should not handle secret documents.

The Security Commission described her behaviour as "disgraceful", but Mr Gillham said that it was too early to form a judgment and she had probably left her interrogation by the security officer believing she had answered all his questions.

"When she was interviewed she thought the visiting officer would 'pry' her into telling something about Prime, but instead he asked her about herself. It is very convenient that the officer is now dead and all the mud is now being thrown at Dorothy and Helena and not him," he added.

Mr Gillham denied that her standing as a local Conservative candidate could affect the general election campaign of Mr Robert Dunn, the Tory MP who was elected to the Dartford seat in the 1979 election with a majority of 1,392.

He said that Miss Barsby became friendly with Mrs Prime while she was a pupil at a local grammar school near Dartford. They had maintained their friendship when Miss Barsby went to live in London and after Mrs Prime married in 1969.

When it was discovered that neither woman had attempted to reveal Prime's espionage activities government legal advisers considered prosecution but found that there was no evidence that either had committed a criminal offence.

Mr Gillham said that Miss Barsby had been in contact with her parents to assure them that she was well, but she had given no indication where she was staying or when she would return to her home in London Road, Dartford.

Haughey claims FitzGerald policies rejected

Mr Charles Haughey, leader of the Opposition in the Irish Republic, claimed yesterday that his Fianna Fail victory in the Donegal South-west by-election on Saturday was "a massive rejection" of the policies of the government of Dr Garret FitzGerald. (Our Dublin Correspondent writes).

The result has been interpreted in Dublin as disappointing for Dr FitzGerald, whose coalition Government has been trying to push through unpopular budget measures.

Despite Mr Haughey's claim, the easy victory for his party's candidate, Mr Cathal Coughlan, a school teacher, did not reflect any big swing to the Fianna Fail party.

A surprise in the poll was the doubling of votes for the candidate of the left-wing Workers' Party. Mr Seamus Rogers got 2,992 votes.

Science report Aural clue to when whales left the land

By Clive Cookson

The fossils of ancestral whales which lived on land about 50 million years ago have been found in Pakistan. The discovery, by a group of US palaeontologists, seems to solve an important mystery of mammalian evolution: where did whales take to the seas?

The primitive whale fossils, which have been named after the rocky hills of the Indus valley. They consist of the back part of a skull and several teeth, including an exceptionally well preserved middle ear.

Professor Philip Gingerich, of the University of Michigan, said that although the skull's anatomical details clearly showed it to be a whale, its ear was that of an animal living mainly on land. It did not have the directional "sonar" system of modern whales, in which the left and right earbones are isolated from one another.

The remains of Pakicetus were unearthed from sedimentary rocks of continental rather than marine origin. The same strata contained fossils of animals known to live on land, including hoofed mammals.

According to Professor Gingerich, Pakicetus probably lived on the shores of the ancient Tethys Sea, which once separated the Indian subcontinent from the rest of Asia. "We speculate that ancestral whales initially were land mammals who, feeding on both meat and fish, colonized the sea shore," he said.

"Enticed by an abundance of fish, they then moved offshore and gradually made their home in the sea." That transition, happened between 50 million and 40 million years ago.

A full-sized Pakicetus skull would have been 18in long and 6in wide, with a wolf-like snout. The shape of the rest of the body is speculative, because no other bones have yet been found, but it was probably at least 6ft long and 300 lb in weight.

Source: *Nature* (vol 220, pp403-406)

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Computer crime at £2m a day

New technology is helping dishonest employees to steal more than £2m a day from their companies, according to the Guarantee Society, a subsidiary of the insurance firm General Accident.

The society said insurance payments for crimes committed by employees in commerce and industry increased by 40 per cent last year. "With the advent of new technology and computerized services, criminal fraud by company employees is becoming increasingly difficult to detect," Mr Douglas Procter, the society's manager, said.

Home Office statistics quoted by the society show that the number of fraud offences in England and Wales increased from 106,671 in 1981 to 123,101 last year.

The society gave an example of fraud a company director who signed cheques drawn on his own account. He balanced the books by forging suppliers' invoices and inflating the stock figures. The loss was £80,000.

Roadside 'safe' defeats police

A suspected abandoned safe turned out to be a Midlands Electricity Board junction box cemented into the foot of a West Midlands police traffic division sent a Land-Rover with towing gear and the uniformed branch sent constables to push.

A member of the public had reported to Halesowen police station a safe on the road verge.

Youth drowned

A youth who drowned after falling from a capsized dinghy at Marlow, Buckinghamshire, was named yesterday as Kevin Lynch, aged 17 of St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Fagan remand

Michael Fagan, of Holloway north London, was remanded in custody for social and medical reports until June 2 by Highbury Corner magistrates on Saturday after admitting assaulting three policemen.

£70,000 robbery

Two gunmen wearing ballistic helmets stole more than £70,000 in wages from the Boverie Street offices of the *News of the World* and *The Sun* in London on Saturday.

Overseas selling prices: *The Sun* £1.50, *The News of the World* £1.50, *The Mirror* £1.50, *The Daily Mail* £1.50, *The Daily Telegraph* £1.50, *The Financial Times* £1.50, *The Independent* £1.50, *The Guardian* £1.50, *The Observer* £1.50, *The Express* £1.50, *The Daily Star* £1.50, *The Daily Express* £1.50, *The Daily Mirror* £1.50, *The Daily Mail* £1.50, *The Daily Telegraph* £1.50, *The Financial Times* £1.50, *The Independent* £1.50, *The Guardian* £1.50, *The Observer* £1.50, *The Express* £1.50, *The Daily Star* £1.50, *The Daily Express* £1.50, *The Daily Mirror* £1.50, *The Daily Mail* £1.50, *The Daily Telegraph* £1.50, *The Financial Times* £1.50, *The Independent* £1.50, *The Guardian* £1.50, *The Observer* £1.50, *The Express* £1.50, *The Daily Star* £1.50, *The Daily Express* £1.50, *The Daily Mirror* £1.50, *The Daily Mail* £1.50, *The Daily Telegraph* £1.50, *The Financial Times* £1.50, *The Independent* £1.50, *The Guardian* £1.50, *The Observer* £1.50, *The Express* £1.50, *The Daily Star* £1.50, *The Daily Express* £1.50, *The Daily Mirror* £1.50, *The Daily Mail* £1.50, *The Daily Telegraph* £1.50, *The Financial Times* £1.50, *The Independent* £1.50, *The Guardian* £1.50, *The Observer* £1.50, *The Express* £1.50, *The Daily Star* £1.50, *The Daily Express* £1.50, *The Daily Mirror* £1.50, *The Daily Mail* £1.50, *The Daily Telegraph* £1.50, *The Financial Times* £1.50, *The Independent* £1.50, *The Guardian* £1.50, *The Observer* £1.50, *The Express* £1.50, *The Daily Star* £1.50, *The Daily Express* £1.50, *The Daily Mirror* £1.50, *The Daily Mail* £1.50, *The Daily Telegraph* £1.50, *The Financial Times* £1.50, *The Independent* £1.50, *The Guardian* £1.50, *The Observer* £1.50, *The Express* £1.50, *The Daily Star* £1.50, *The Daily Express* £1.50, *The Daily Mirror* £1.50, *The Daily Mail* £1.50, *The Daily Telegraph* £1.50, *The Financial Times* £1.50, *The Independent* £1.50, *The Guardian* £1.50, *The Observer* £1.50, *The Express* £1.50, *The Daily Star* £1.50, *The Daily Express* £1.50, *The Daily Mirror* £1.50, *The Daily Mail* £1.50, *The Daily Telegraph* £1.50, *The Financial Times* £1.50, *The Independent* £1.50, *The Guardian* £1.50, *The Observer* £1.50, *The Express* £1.50, *The Daily Star* £1.50, *The Daily Express* £1.50, *The Daily Mirror* £1.50, *The Daily Mail* £1.50, *The Daily Telegraph* £1.50, *The Financial Times* £1.50, *The Independent* £1.50, *The Guardian* £1.50, *The Observer* £1.50, *The Express* £1.50, *The Daily Star* £1.50, *The Daily Express* £1.50, *The Daily Mirror* £1.50, *The Daily Mail* £1.50, *The Daily Telegraph* £1.50, *The Financial Times* £1.50, *The Independent* £1.50, *The Guardian* £1.50, *The Observer* £1.50, *The Express* £1.50, *The Daily Star* £1.50, *The Daily Express* £1.50, *The Daily Mirror* £1.50, *The Daily Mail* £1.50, *The Daily Telegraph* £1.50, *The Financial Times* £1.50, *The Independent* £1.50, *The Guardian* £1.50, *The Observer* £1.50, *The Express* £1.50, *The Daily Star* £1.50, *The Daily Express* £1.50, *The Daily Mirror* £1.50, *The Daily Mail* £1.50, *The Daily Telegraph* £1.50, *The Financial Times* £1.50, *The Independent* £1.50, *The Guardian* £1.50, *The Observer* £1.50, *The Express* £1.50, *The Daily Star* £1.50, *The Daily Express* £1.50, *The Daily Mirror* £1.50, *The Daily Mail* £1.50, *The Daily Telegraph* £1.50, *The Financial Times* £1.50, *The Independent* £1.50, *The Guardian* £1.50, *The Observer* £1.50, *The Express* £1.50, *The Daily Star* £1.50, *The Daily Express* £1.50, *The Daily Mirror* £1.50, *The Daily Mail* £1.50, *The Daily Telegraph* £1.50, *The Financial Times* £1.50, *The Independent* £1.50, *The Guardian* £1.50, *The Observer* £1.50, *The Express* £1.50, *The Daily Star* £1.50, *The Daily Express* £1.50, *The Daily Mirror* £1.50, *The Daily Mail* £1.50, *The Daily Telegraph* £1.50, *The Financial Times* £1.50, *The Independent* £1.50, *The Guardian* £1.50, *The Observer* £1.50, *The Express* £1.50, *The Daily Star* £1.

'Millions' of homes at risk from hidden fault that weakens outer walls

By Baron Phillips, Property Correspondent

Millions of homes in the North, in East Anglia, on the South Coast and in other exposed areas are potentially at risk from serious structural faults that have cost owners up to £20,000 to rectify.

Between 1890 and 1940 more than nine million homes were built, many using cavity wall method of construction, which surveys say is beginning to show evidence of faults that can lead to collapsing walls.

It is impossible to be precise about the number of homes affected; cavity wall construction has been in use since the early century, but did not become a widespread method of building until the 1920s.

Some experts believe, however, that as many as half of Britain's 21 million houses have cavity walls. Mr Malcolm Hollis, chartered building surveyor who predicts that by the end of the century about seven million homes will need remedial treatment.

At the heart of the matter are the metal "ties", used to hold the inner and outer sections of wall together. There is growing evidence of serious erosion which renders them useless.

Mr Adrian Jones, a chartered building surveyor with the Sussex firm of King & Chase, says cavity wall failure is causing problems "as never before," which could lead to the collapse of many houses built before the Second World War.

"When the ties rust away the walls are left in two halves, each insufficiently strong to stand alone. A house in this condition may be falling apart," Mr Jones said.

"The problem is coming to light now because most houses from before the turn of the century were built with solid walls, so there were no ties to rust. It has taken forty to eighty years for the problem to show itself.

If the defect is caught early enough, then repair costs could be as low as £1,000, which would cover replacement ties or a new type of cavity wall insulating foam which acts as a structural support.

But if the house is structurally unstable then repairs for an average three bedroom home can total £20,000.

Although the corrosion of wall ties is regarded as a problem affecting houses built before the Second World War, a spokesman from the Building Research Advisory Bureau said that the defect had been discovered in postwar houses as well.

The first signs were long horizontal cracks in the outer wall, which if untreated would widen. The outer wall can also bulge to the point where it "popped" out.

Householders who believe their homes show signs of possible tie failure should ask a qualified chartered building surveyor to carry out a detailed inspection of the property. But he must have the right equipment, such as fibre optic probes.

It is thought that most insurance policies do not provide cover against tie failure. As Mr Hollis points out it is impossible to get insurance cover against old age, of which this problem is a symptom.

Mr Jones admits that in Sussex he has only come across a handful of homes which were actually collapsing, but says there are many more which show signs of this potentially serious structural problem. He

warns potential buyers of a house built during that period to have the property examined by a structural surveyor.

The problem is not confined to privately owned homes. A council estate in the Aigburth district of Liverpool is suffering from an advanced form of tie failure.

It was only discovered after residents applied to buy their homes. Surveyors showed that the walls were dangerously close to collapsing repair bills could total £18,000.

A spokesman for Liverpool City Council commented last week that tie failure was a common problem in the city; it was not surprising that the tenants had encountered it.

Mr Hollis said that areas particularly exposed to wet and windy conditions were prone to the problem.

"In Liverpool they had enormous problems on council estates with ties that have gone, resulting in the outer wall bowing considerably."

Mr Hollis said that when the ties completely eroded most of the weight was borne by the outer wall, which was not strong enough. In the worst cases, the outer walls collapsed.

He believed that at least 5 per cent of houses in the North, in London and on the South Coast which have been inspected show signs of the problem. Unfortunately, only about one house in 10 is surveyed. So it could be more widespread.

Mr Hollis agreed that probably 5 per cent of all homes with cavity walls in those areas were showing signs of failure.



Pincer movement; Nicholas Johnson, aged two and a half (left) coming face to face with a live Scottish lobster at Billingsgate Market open day in London yesterday. (Photograph John Voe).

Group call for inquiry into sentencing by JPs

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Bristol group of Radical Alternatives to Prison (RAP) has asked for a judicial inquiry by the European Court of Human Rights into "the maladministration of local justice in England and Wales".

It says that there is no justification for wide variations in sentencing practice by magistrates' courts. That is disclosed, it says, by the compilation during the past decade from Home Office statistics of an annual league table of rates of adult imprisonment by the courts.

The latest figures showed that 1981 was a bad year for fair play, RAP claims. Dorset sent 13.23 per cent of male adult offenders directly to jail, compared with a national average of

9.39 per cent and a low figure of 4.14 per cent in Warwickshire.

"Individual benches within county areas provide even more startling contrasts", Newbury, in Berkshire, sent 14 times as many people to prison as the Blyth Valley Bench in Northumberland, 22.6 per cent, compared with 1.6 per cent.

Though RAP has drawn the attention of successive Home Secretaries and Lord Chancellors to the wide variations, "no practical action has been taken to curb the powers which some magistrates abuse with so little concern for the basic rights of their fellow citizens".

RAP says individual cases from Newbury or Dorset cannot be referred to the European Court of Human Rights

Trainee GP miscarries after 75-hour shift

A doctor's union has stepped up its campaign for shorter working hours after a young pregnant trainee doctor was said to have miscarried as a result of over-work. The incident was described in last week's *Doctor* magazine by Dr Jane Bernal, a member of the 5,000-strong Medical Practitioners' Union. She said the trainee doctor working at an inner city children's hospital, who was three months' pregnant, fell ill at the beginning of a 75-hour weekend shift which began at 9am on a Friday.

She asked to go home, but her consultant refused permission because no other doctor was available. Although she was vomiting, and had diarrhoea, she carried on working and treated about 100 patients with no more than an hour's rest at a

stretch. On the Tuesday she had a miscarriage.

The article concludes that the case "demonstrates the sort of thing that doctors have put up with for much too long, and why something needs to be done urgently. Clearly neither the hospital nor the Department of Health and Social Security has any intention of doing anything about making sure this sort of thing does not happen."

Dr Bernal, who leads the union's junior doctors' section, said they were demanding a minimum 60-hour working week and the abolition of long weekend shifts.

Dr Bernal said the woman did not want to be named, and did not identify the hospital or health authority, but said the doctor was considering legal action.

Doctors tune in by phone to baby's heart

By Pearce Wright

For ten days, doctors listened to the heart of an unborn baby by telephone because its mother, aged 31, lived 14 miles from the hospital and had no transport. She was also a diabetic who had experienced complications in the latter stages of an earlier pregnancy.

A method of monitoring the baby's progress over the public telephone network was devised by Dr Kevin Dalton, Dr Andrew Dawson and Mr Nigel Gough, an electronics specialist, of the department of obstetrics and gynaecology at the Welsh National School of Medicine in Cardiff.

The procedure began after the thirty-fourth week of pregnancy. In spite of the cost of telephone charges, monitoring the patient from home each day cost less than 6 per cent of the daily hospital bed charges and the share of the equipment for examining the baby's heart. Heartbeats arriving at the obstetric unit appeared instantaneously on a computer display screen.

An account of the procedure is described in the current issue of the *British Medical Journal*. Telecardiogram recordings, as they are called, were tried first for short periods on women with no complications and involved five people at home and ten in hospital.

A small "squawk box" is placed on the woman's abdominal wall.

Made by Sonicaid, a specialist firm of medical equipment suppliers, it consists of an electronic detector and a loudspeaker. The mouthpiece of the telephone is placed beside the loudspeaker for the heartbeat to be transmitted.

In the case quoted, the daily link between home and hospital continued until irregularities were detected and the woman was admitted to hospital, where she gave birth to a normal baby.

Burial ground find fills historical gap

By David Nicholson-Lord

A couple using a metal detector have uncovered a burial ground in West Sussex which may cast new light on the period after the Romans left Britain.

The find was revealed at a public meeting in Chichester on Saturday. Thirty volunteers will start intensive excavations in July on the early medieval, or Dark Ages, burial ground, which is thought to contain hundreds of graves.

Among items found so far are silver and bronze jewelry, described as of high quality, coins, rings, buckles and spearheads. One brooch from Lutland, has been dated at about AD 400 and appears to indicate that the Jutes, who colonized Britain in the wake of the Romans, settled in Sussex.

Among the graves that have been examined are those of a warrior of 6ft 3in, who was buried with his spear, and a wealthy woman buried with her handbag containing Roman coins.

Uncovering Imperial Rome, page 10

Lord Elgin rejects Greek claim

By Ronald Faux

Lord Elgin and Kincardine said yesterday that he would approve of the return of the Elgin Marbles to Greece as part of a worldwide attempt to recreate and recapture the great spirit of the Parthenon architecture.

However, he dismissed the present case being put by the Greek Government for their return, which he said was "as weak as water".

The Greek Government are to make a formal claim for the return of the sculptures, removed by a forebear of Lord Elgin from the Parthenon in the nineteenth century with the approval of the Greek authorities.

Neither the British Government nor the British Museum have shown any sympathy in the past for the Greek claim to the marbles, and Lord Elgin believed that the present demands, however engagingly expressed by Miss Melina Mercouri, the Greek Minister of Culture, would not win sympathy.

"They are merely saying that 'I want one thing to go from your museum to my museum', he said.

"But if an attempt is made to recapture the entire spirit of the great architecture by bringing together the Parthenon collections from around the world, then that would be different."

● ATHENS: It is still not clear whether the request for the return of the Elgin Marbles will be made by the Greek Foreign Ministry through diplomatic channels or by Miss Mercouri, who is due in London on Saturday as guest of the Institute of Contemporary Arts (Mario Modiano writes).

Livingstone accuses the press of distortion

Mr Kenneth Livingstone, leader of the Greater London Council, today accused newspapers of portraying him as a "raving lunatic". He says in the magazine *Tibbis* that newspapers have become "propaganda sheets" for their editors or owners.

Tibbis has given Mr Livingstone a regular column. He said he had jumped at the chance of contributing a column "to reach over one million people without reporters, editors or owners twisting what I want to say". If he believed everything he

read about "Red Ken" then "I wouldn't vote for him myself".

Mr Livingstone added: "Clearly no one in Britain wants to see censorship of the papers, but there are now so few left and there is so little choice in political terms that some sort of action is required."

"I am tempted to say that we need a new law to prevent millionaire Australians coming over here to buy up our newspapers. But instead we could just extend the existing laws which control political balance."

'Inquest' decides Mozart was murdered by person unknown

By Christopher Warman, Arts Correspondent

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, who was buried in a pauper's grave the day after his death in 1791, was murdered, a "jury" decided on Saturday.

After listening to two hours of evidence on the circumstances surrounding the composer's death, the "jury", at the Brighton Festival, remained divided in its opinion, but less than half of the 250 believed that he had died of natural causes, as the official version has it.

A majority returned a "verdict" of murder, but disputed which of three suspects was guilty. Finally Franz Hoffmeyer, a Viennese court official and husband of Mozart's piano pupil, Magdalena, possibly helped by his mistress, emerged as chief villain, with 60 votes to support his guilt.

Sassaparilla, Mozart's composition pupil and lodger and thought to be the lover of his wife, Constanza, received 39 votes. Salieri, the court Kapellmeister, who has already gained a bad name through Peter Shaffer's play *Amadeus*, was thought guilty by 28 people.

The proceedings of this "inquest" provoked high passions and Salieri, played like

the other witnesses by an amateur actor, was roundly hissed as he took the stand to give evidence.

Poor Mozart. If Shaffer's play had him turning in his grave, this event would have had him spinning.

The "inquest" was presided over by the Mr Michael Hutchinson, QC, who acted as the



Mozart

coroner and, like all good judges, had prepared his summing-up before hearing the witnesses.

The idea for the "inquest" came from Mr Ian Hunter,

artistic director of the festival, whose theme is the last years of Mozart's life.

It sought answers to the question why Mozart, the most popular composer in Vienna, was buried hastily in a pauper's grave on December 6, 1791. Crowds had gathered outside his house as he lay dying, yet only a dozen attended his funeral and three went to the graveside.

The evidence was gathered by Mr Simon Whitworth, a barrister, who prepared briefs to be presented by three other barristers. It claimed that Mozart was not a pauper, was not depressed or worn out and was not an unrecognized failure.

Those claims are based on research by Mr Francis Carr, who is writing a book on the subject, and by Professor Horace Fitzpatrick.

The mystery of why Mozart was buried in a pauper's grave when a third-class burial giving him a single grave had been arranged remains unsolved.

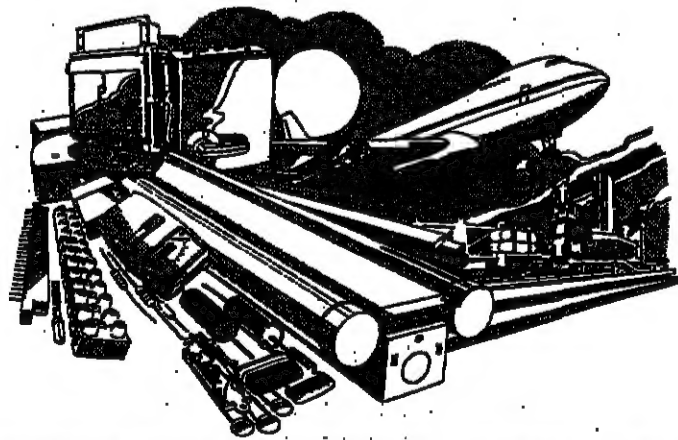
Everyone enjoys good, mysterious inquest, and at the end of the proceedings Mr Hutchinson concluded that a charge of murder would have to be contemplated.

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Sit-in by journalists fails to sway management of Stern

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Vogel support

The noon deadline set by Stern journalists for the management to withdraw the appointment of two editors of the staff consider too right-wing passed yesterday and they continued the occupation of the magazine's Hamburg headquarters which began on Friday night.

They are protesting that they were not consulted about the nomination last week of Herr Peter Scholl-Latour and Herr Johannes Gross to succeed Herr Peter Koch and Herr Felix Schmidt, the editors who resigned when the Hitler Diaries scandal broke in Stern proved to be forgeries.

Meanwhile, the Stuttgart dealer in Nazi memorabilia suspected of forging the diaries has been arrested after surrendering to German police on the Bavarian border on Saturday, apparently returning from Austria.

Herr Konrad Kujau, alias Dr Konrad Fischer, who delivered the diaries to Herr Gerd Heidemann, the Stern reporter, said in a statement released by his lawyer that he had returned to defend himself against charges of fraud.

The shockwaves of the Hitler Diaries scandal have continued to shake Stern and fascinate most Germans. In the tense and embittered atmosphere at the magazine's headquarters the journalists, who almost all condemned the publication of

Police have searched the flat of Herr Heidemann, dismissed last week by Stern, in connexion with the lawsuit the magazine has taken out against him for fraud. They also searched rooms he had rented in Hamburg where he kept his collection of Nazi documents, but would give no details of what they took away.

The return of Herr Kujau to Germany will be of vital importance in the preparation of possible charges of criminal fraud over the diaries. Herr Kujau, himself from East Germany, disappeared after the 60 volumes were exposed as forgeries and was said to have gone to Czechoslovakia.

Stuttgart police raided his shop on Friday and took away bags full of apparently valuable photographs, documents and works of art, some of which appeared to be forgeries.

In his statement Herr Kujau dismissed as "absurd" charges that he had forged the diaries himself. "I can neither read nor write old Germanic script," he said. He also denied charges that he had received DM9m (£2.75m) from Herr Heidemann. He said that as he handed over the diaries in instalments, convinced that they were genuine, he had received altogether only DM2.5m. Of this, he had kept only DM300,000 for his own services as a courier and middleman.



Wrestlers and referees greeting Emperor Hirohito when he arrived at a Tokyo sumo hall yesterday. In one bout, champion Wakashimazu (centre) shoved his opponent out of the ring, scoring an eighth straight victory.

Emirates' envoy not to FO liking

By Rodney Cowton

The Foreign Office is believed to have refused to accept the letter of credence of Mr Mohammed Mahdi Al-Tajer, the prospective Ambassador in London of the United Arab Emirates.

Mr Tajir, aged 51, a controversial and extremely wealthy businessman, was Ambassador in Britain for 10 years until his resignation last year. The Foreign Office was notified of his reappointment and given letters of credence last week. It is understood that the letters were returned to the Embassy last Friday, although the Foreign Office said yesterday it did not comment on communications between itself and an embassy.

Agreement is normally reached between two governments on a particular individual's acceptability as ambassador before letters of credence are presented.

It is thought that the letters were returned on the grounds that these procedures had been breached, though it is not clear whether this was the whole reason or whether it concealed a reluctance to accept the reappointment of Mr Tajir. It is reported that his return to the London Embassy has been resisted in some quarters in the Emirates.

While Ambassador, Mr Tajir was involved in a number of controversies, including being informally rebuffed in May 1979 for failing to attend the State opening of Parliament. This was seen as a snub for the Queen, although he maintained that he was prevented from attending by illness.

It was reported yesterday that officials from the Foreign Ministry of the UAE were in London investigating possible financial irregularities at the embassy, although no official confirmation of this was available and Mr Tajir was not available for comment.

Mr Tajir was born in Bahrain and educated for a time in Britain at Preston Grammar School. His first important appointment was as director of the Port and Customs Department in Bahrain.

Assad holds on in Lebanon Syrians dig in across Bekaa

From Robert Fisk, Rayak, Lebanon

As President Assad of Syria continued over the weekend to reject the newly agreed Israeli-Lebanese military withdrawal formula, Syrian Army engineers were busy constructing an extensive new series of earth fortifications, revetments and anti-tank ditches across the floor of the Bekaa Valley. On both sides of the highway south of Rayak, the Syrian Army has started several square miles of excavations into which radio communications vehicles and dozens of battle-tanks have already been driven.

Bright yellow bulldozers were yesterday pushing into the soft earth outside the village of Terbol and a clutch of antennae sprouted from a low, man-made hill to the west. Along the old Roman road towards Anjar, newly arrived Palestinian guerrillas in brand-new Japanese-made lorries bearing Syrian registration plates drove southwards.

The Israeli forward positions lie more than 10 miles to the south, and it could just be that the Syrians are building a makeshift withdrawal line, a provisional communications and defensive network in case the Americans pull out a surprise and actually persuade President Assad to move his soldiers out of Lebanon.

But a few days ago Syrian officers told the local farmers to turn off the irrigation pumps around their fields, and the implication of this instruction

was not lost on the people of the Bekaa - tanks cannot fight in mud.

"Will the war come to Baalbek this year?" a bespectacled young man had asked us when we stopped further north. He brandished a copy of one of the Beirut morning newspapers. "They say that there has been a pro-Syrian revolt among the Palestinian guerrillas. The Syrians are warning that there will be another civil war here."

He pointed to a group of unshaven Palestinians driving past us, some of them carrying automatic weapons. "If there is a war here," he said, "we are going to get hurt because there are too many armies here."

Twice in the past three days, Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization chairman, has paid night-time visits to the Bekaa, his first return to Lebanon since he was evacuated by sea from Beirut last summer. Officially, he spent his time inspecting the Yamouk Brigade of the Palestine Liberation Army, the PLO's regular military unit, but in Damascus the Syrians were claiming - discreetly, but with evident pleasure - that the Syrian guerrilla officers had mutinied against Mr Arafat's leadership.

The PLO news agency did refer darkly yesterday to a "suspicious political campaign" being waged against the movement - presumably by Mr Arafat's more radical opponents

- and PLO officers in the Bekaa were in no mood to talk to journalists yesterday.

In Baalbek, word has gone about that there is now considerable tension between those guerrillas who have remained in the Bekaa these past eight months and the 1,500 Palestinians, all evacuees from Beirut last year, who returned to Lebanon under Syrian auspices 10 days ago.

The Syrians have meanwhile been encouraging the formation of a "rump" political opposition in Lebanon which will oppose the Israeli-Lebanese withdrawal agreement that the Parliament in Beirut is expected to approve today. However, the Syrians have chosen to put their faith in the three Lebanese political leaders - President Suleiman Franjeh, Rachid Karami, the former Prime Minister, and Walid Jumblatt the Druse leader - who are generally discredited and in one case potentially senile. All three are disturbed at the consequences of an Israeli withdrawal on their own political careers, and the Lebanese are well aware of this.

So the conglomeration of armies in the Bekaa - the Syrians, the Palestinians and the small unit of Iranian Revolutionary Guards whose banners still fly on the hills above Baalbek - are preparing for a war of attrition or an outright Israeli attack with no real political support from within Lebanon.

Egypt backs Shultz deal

From John Holloway, Cairo

President Mubarak of Egypt has urged all Arab states to support the American-sponsored agreement between Israel and Lebanon, and indirectly accused Syria of trying to sabotage it.

His remarks, to a special session of Parliament in Cairo on Saturday, suggested a softening of Egypt's position and virtually recognized the Arab's inability to have any serious influence on US policy in the Middle East.

"Egypt stands with its full

weight behind the Lebanese people," Mr Mubarak said. The Lebanese had "the final say on everything relating to their soil, security and rights".

In fact, the Lebanese have anything but the final say. Although the agreement, which is due to be signed in the northern Israeli town of Natanya today, covers the withdrawal of the Israeli forces, Israel has said it will be implemented only when Syria, which is not a party to the accord, also pulls its forces out.

King Husain has faith in Reagan

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

King Husain of Jordan has confirmed that he still believes in President Reagan's unquestionable good intentions and his resolve to get a Middle East peace settlement.

"Though our joint efforts have been thwarted for the time being, it should go without saying that our commitment to peace with dignity is paramount," the King said in a message here to a meeting of the National Association of Arab Americans on Saturday.

The message was conveyed by the King's brother, Crown Prince Hassan. King Husain observed that the Jordan-PLO dialogue on the question of Jordanian participation in any broadened Palestinian autonomy negotiations between Egypt, Israel and the United States had gradually lost its momentum.

He added: "My faith in the President's resolve and his unquestionable good intentions remains strong."

The recent visit of Mr George Shultz US Secretary of State, to the Middle East was a clear indication that President Reagan intended to persevere in spite of the difficulties encountered so far, the King stated.

Mr Shultz has also said that President Reagan is determined to continue his efforts to carry forward the Lebanon negotiations on the withdrawal of foreign forces from that country and the Middle East peace process.

King Husain said that President Reagan's September 1 Middle East peace initiative and the Arab League Summit for peace plan offered the broadest framework within which a just and lasting settlement must be found.

"I, for my part, welcomed the Reagan proposals from the very outset and wanted to see them evolve and develop," he said.

Watergate burglar pardoned by President

WASHINGTON (Reuters) President Reagan has pardoned one Watergate burglar, but refused a similar application from two others convicted for their part in the 1972 break-in at Democratic Party headquarters.

Eugenio Rolando Martinez, aged 60, is the first convicted Watergate conspirator to be pardoned. He was jailed in 1973 and released on parole in 1974 when his sentence was reduced to time already spent in jail.

Mr Martinez, aged 64, and E. Howard Hunt, aged 64, are still on parole after serving part of their prison sentences.

Mr Magruder was convicted of obstruction of justice, and Mr Martinez and Mr Hunt of burglary, conspiracy and wiretapping.

Disc operation for Karajan

Bonn-Herbert von Karajan, the chief conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, is reported to have undergone an operation on a spinal disc on Friday, Michael Binyon writes.

Herr von Karajan, aged 75, who was recently involved in a dispute with the orchestra he has conducted for more than 25 years, entered a clinic in Hannover under a false name, and the section of the clinic in which he is being treated has been closed off.

Everest success

Katmandu (Reuters) - Two Americans and a Nepalese Sherpa yesterday reached the summit of Everest, a week after five climbers from the same German-American expedition scaled the mountain. A third team hopes to reach the summit tomorrow.

China martyrs

Rome (AP) - The Pope declared blessed two Salsatian missionaries martyred in China in 1930, and said he hoped to strengthen the dialogue between the Vatican and China. More than 60 bishops have been ordained in China since 1958, but the Vatican does not recognize them.

Royal visit



King Juan Carlos (above) and Queen Sofia of Spain began a seven-day visit to Brazil in the north-eastern city of Salvador, which has a large Spanish community. Diplomats in Brasilia said the royal visit was partly to show support for the political liberalisation programme sponsored by President Joao Figueiredo's Government.

Rebels repelled

Managua (AP) - The Government claimed that its forces have dispersed 500 rebels who invaded north-eastern Nicaragua from Honduras, but sources in the armed forces said fighting continued on both the northern and southern fronts.

CIA blamed

Havana (AFP) - Thirty-three people have been sentenced to prison terms for carrying out "numerous and continual" acts of sabotage with the support of the CIA, according to Señor Roberto Veiga, head of the Cuban workers' organization.

Victims list

Lahore (AFP) - The Human Rights Society of Pakistan published a list of nine political prisoners who are said to have "died in jail due to torture during interrogation" since the military takeover led by General Zia L-Haq.

Taiwan break

Taipei (AP) - Taiwan broke off diplomatic relations with Lesotho after the announcement in Peking that China and the African state had established diplomatic ties.

Delhi blaze

Delhi (AFP) - Three people were killed and more than 30 injured in a fire which destroyed the Indian Oil Corporation's liquid petroleum gas plant in west Delhi.

Scientists rethink on Etna

From John Earle, Rome

A team of scientists and technicians yesterday inspected the southern slopes of Mt Etna to consider more action after the partial failure of an attempt early on Saturday to divert the lava flow away from villages with explosives.

The attempt could be made with only 33 out of 50 explosives charges inserted in tubes into solidified lava which formed the bank of the stream, because the lower level of tubes was subjected to unexpectedly high temperatures from the mass of lava. In consequence, only the upper part of a 15-yard gap was blown away.

The incandescent lava, which flowed out along a man-made channel towards an old crater, had by yesterday become a 600-yard trickle and, according to those on the spot, was threatening to rejoin the main stream.

The inspecting team was reported to be against further use of explosives. Instead, they were said to be considering using bulldozers to widen the gap or to try to obstruct the main stream.

Though Etna's summit reaches 10,700 ft, the main lava outflow is from a crater at a little over 7,000 ft. "Operation Bang," as it was named by Signor Loris Fortuna, the Minister for Civil Defence, took place at about 6,500 ft. MOSCOW. Klyuchevskaya Sopka, a volcano in the Soviet Far East, has been erupting for more than two months, but is not posing any danger, according to Tass News Agency, Reuters reports.

Libya frees West Germans in swap

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Eight West Germans, who have been in prison in Libya since April, have been released and returned yesterday afternoon to Frankfurt airport. Meanwhile, two Libyans who were trial here on charges of torturing fellow-Libyans in the Libyan People's Bureau last November have been expelled in what appears to be a concession to Libyan demands for a swap.

The eight Germans, who were detained on unspecified charges of spying, said on arrival that they had been well treated, and appeared to be in good health. Herr Jürgen Möllemann, State Secretary in the Foreign Ministry, flew to Libya last month to discuss their case with Major Jalloud, the Libyan deputy leader.

The exchange has caused considerable concern here in case it sets an unhealthy

precedent and exposes West Germany to blackmail by any country whose citizens are arrested here. A spokesman for the Young Liberals called on Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, to make sure the federal republic's principles of law were not sacrificed.

The two accused Libyans, Dr Mustapha Zaidi and Mr Abdul-Yamia, had already appeared in court and heard charges that they had threatened dissident Libyans with forcible return to Libya.

Last weekend Bonn also expelled a Libyan who was serving a sentence of life imprisonment for the murder of a former Libyan diplomat. He was sent back to Tripoli and exchanged for four Germans who had already spent many years in prison in Libya on various convictions.

State work on the dole

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

Spaniards on the dole may be required to work for the state during the period in which they collect unemployment compensation according to a ministerial order which became effective yesterday.

The order from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security published in the official state bulletin also incorporates other measures affecting employment

It said the unemployed "can be obliged to carry out tasks of social collaboration" during up to five months of the period in which they are receiving compensation. It added that any job assigned to an out-of-work person should "coincide with the physical and professional aptitudes of the unemployed worker". The order implements a decree issued last June by the previous administration.

Indian backwater finds itself gripped by political fever

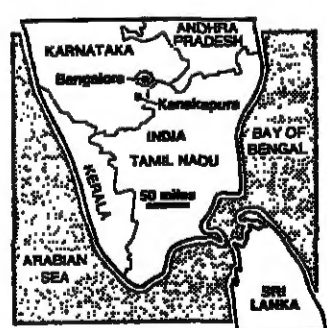
From Michael Hamlyn, Bangalore

Kanakapura has elections as San Francisco has earthquakes: occasionally it is devastated by one. The narrow streets of the little town have for weeks been rendered virtually impassable, and its conversations inaudible by competing processions, public address systems, bands, dancers and cheer leaders.

Triumphal arches of palm leaves shade the main street, fluttering with posters from competing candidates. Important visitors from Delhi arrived, addressed large imported crowds and departed. The idea that American hometown elections represent the ultimate in political razzmatazz needs revision.

Kanakapura (the name means town of gold, money or plenty, a plain misnomer) and its 200 or so surrounding hamlets were the centre of so much attraction because of a by-election yesterday to the state's legislative assembly in Bangalore, the garden city 20 miles away. But this was not an ordinary by-election.

Earlier this year Mrs Gandhi and her ruling Congress (I) Party received an unpleasant blow when their nearly traditional grip on the south was broken both here and in Andhra Pradesh and against all appar-



ent odds in Karnataka the Janata party was elected to power. It was the first time a non-Congress party formed the Government in the state. So unprepared were they, that the best nominee for Chief Minister had not even stood in the elections. He needed to win a seat in the Assembly, so the local member moved up to the second chamber.

But the Assembly is so finely balanced that the seat had to be won otherwise the party would lose control and Congress(I) would be back in again. So there was everything to fight for. This is the only state in the union controlled by Janata, the residue of the coalition which replaced Mrs Gandhi as the national Government after the emergency.

Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, the Chief Minister, put all he had



Mr Gandhi: Fighting to regain state control.

got into the fight, and so did Congress. Although there were 13 candidates in all, the election was in effect a straight fight between Mr Hegde and Mrs Gandhi. Mrs Gandhi is not here, and her candidate was a little-known retired police inspector who had never run for public office before, but that scarcely seems to matter.

Mr Hegde, aged 56, soft-spoken and thoughtful, with a Yasser Arafat style of beard has evolved a new style of politics, well suited to India's love of simplicity and austerity. "I have tried to introduce value-based politics in Karnataka," he said.

Values have vanished from Indian politics, and the people grow cynical of politicians. "Mrs Gandhi has no scruples. For her the end is important and the means are not. She uses whatever means she has to use. This is just the opposite of what Maganma Gandhi preached. As a result, corruption has seeped into the system, both political and administrative corruption. But I think people like what I have been doing. There are signs of regaining faith in the system."

Mr Hegde's supporters drew attention to the conscious difference he drew between

his regime and that of his predecessor. Mr Gundu Rao, the Congress (I) Minister. He has ostentatiously not moved into the luxurious Chief Minister's residence that Mr Rao had built. He moved quickly to appoint commissioners as soon as a breath of an accusation of corruption escaped the opposition's lips.

His method of electioneering is also instructive. Mr Hegde toured the little villages of the constituency, each scarcely more than 200 inhabitants and perhaps a small temple. He drove with a small convoy of supporters through the brick red countryside, and walked the last hundred yards or so along the dusty earth roads. He had no police escort or outriders. A band or dancers offered greeted him. A coconut was usually smashed at his feet to ward off the evil eye, and red dye painted on his forehead. A little festival often ensued as he was greeted with dishes of fruit.

Under a canopy of palm leaves decorated with mango leaves and the brilliant flame-coloured golmohan blossom, he would make a few remarks to the villagers - who were likely to have never seen a Chief Minister before in their lives - generally telling them of the work his Government has done for water supplies. The drought here,

though bad, is nothing like as bad as in neighbouring Tamil Nadu, but water supplies are of crucial importance.

He sometimes draws attention in low conversational tones to the difference between his style of travel and that of his predecessor, who went about the state in a helicopter. "With the money he spent on helicopters he could have put a tap in every village," he told one crowd. Then he would on to the next through awaiting him down the road. The day before campaigning ceased, he visited 33 villages the inhabitants waiting for him until midnight in some of them.

His opponents in the Congress camp would have none of this man-of-the-people stance. "He is not a progressive he's a conservative!" Mr Karwa Lakshappa, the member of Lok Sabha for the district, exclaimed. Adding for good measure: "And he's hand in glove with the Communist Party, Marxist. All the undemocratic forces and communal forces are working with him."

Mr Lakshappa insisted that he would not be supported by the minorities. "Because of the secular character of our party and what we have done for women - the anti-dowry act, and so on - the majority of women are supporting our candidate."

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US and Russia blame each other for slow pace of Geneva talks

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

The chief American and Soviet negotiators in the talks on limiting intermediate-range nuclear missiles have returned to Geneva for their sixth session since the meetings started 18 months ago, each blaming lack of progress on the other side's obduracy.

Mr Paul Nitze, aged 76, said the interim proposal, regarded by the Americans as a first step towards the ultimate zero-option goal of no such missiles in Europe, made just before the negotiations adjourned at the end of March, opened an opportunity to find common ground.

"Unfortunately, the Soviets continue to impose unacceptable conditions upon such an agreement," he said. But any new proposals they made would be examined with an open mind.

His Soviet counterpart, Mr Yuri Kvitinskiy, aged 46, said that the American "interim option" was aimed at imposing

a unilateral reduction on the Soviet Union. He advocated the latest Andropov proposals as the means for radically reducing nuclear arms in Europe and maintaining approximate parity between the Soviet Union and Nato, both in delivery systems and in the number of warheads.

The negotiations resume on Tuesday, with the United States reportedly to be considering proposing a 300-warhead limit for each side. This would mean partial deployment of about half of the 572 of the new cruise and Pershing 2 missiles to counter the Soviet SS20s. Unless there is a positive outcome to this round, prospects are bleak for any progress in the parallel negotiations on strategic weapons which resume next month.

● **ATHENS:** Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, is sending letters to day to the leaders of the other five Balkan states, including

Turkey, inviting them to set in motion plans for the creation of a nuclear-free zone in the Balkans.

He announced this initiative in the course of a large political rally in the northern Greek town of Komotini, near the frontiers with Turkey and Bulgaria.

He told crowds chanting "out with the death bases" that he was proposing to the other leaders a concrete procedure aimed at the elimination of nuclear weapons from the Balkan peninsula. It would begin with a summit meeting of experts within 1983, and culminate eventually in a summit conference of Balkan leaders.

"Our ambition is that the Balkans, once the powder-keg of Europe, should become a bastion of peace," he said.

The Prime Minister's call was echoed on Sunday by demonstrators for peace and nuclear disarmament who converged on Constitution Square.

The main march was from Marathon to Athens and was staged to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the assassination of Gregory Lambrakis, the left-wing deputy and leading peace campaigner, by right-wing extremists.

However, the peace movements of other left-wing parties in Greece failed to agree on a common demonstration, so yesterday's marches, attended by tens of thousands, were sponsored only by the pro-Soviet Greek Communist Party.

Mr Papandreu in his Komotini speech, while preaching nuclear disarmament, insisted that Greece needed to be militarily strong in view of the threat posed by Turkey.

Man in the News

Testing time for a cautious hawk

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

When you meet Mr Kenneth Adelman, President Reagan's new Arms Control Director, it is hard to understand why there was such a fuss over his appointment and why it took the Senate almost three months to approve his confirmation.

When he was nominated to succeed the urbane Mr Eugene Rostow as head of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA), he had the reputation of being a hardliner on defence issues. Yet in conversation he emphasises the need for caution and flexibility when dealing with the Soviet Union.

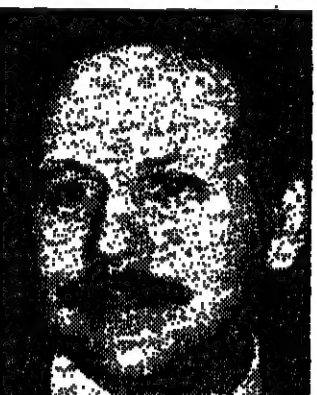
During his disastrous initial Senate confirmation hearing, Mr Adelman, who is 36, appeared to be ignorant about the task he was taking on. He answered at least 20 times "I don't know" or "I hadn't thought about that" to questions relating directly to arms control issues.

His supporters put this down to "stage fright" and, after some intensive behind-the-scenes coaching, his performance improved a great deal during subsequent appearances. Now, although still not completely fluent in his subject, he at least seems more comfortable when talking about his allotted task.

He is clearly not entirely at ease with his new role. He speaks slowly, choosing his words with caution, and has an academic's tendency to do his thinking out loud (most of his career has been with universities and think-tanks). This means he sometimes says things he should not.

Mr Adelman's grasp of his subject will be tested when the intermediate-range missile talks resume in Geneva tomorrow. Although not involved in the day-to-day negotiations - these will continue to be handled by Mr Paul Nitze, who has led the US delegation since the talks began in December, 1981 - Mr Adelman is responsible for supervising the American positions at both the intermediate and strategic missile talks.

Mr Adelman owes his haw-



Mr Adelman: Not entirely at ease

kish reputation largely to his opposition to the Salt 2 agreement negotiated by the Carter Administration but never ratified by the Senate. He wrote an article in an academic publication explaining why he was against it, and this was one of the pieces of evidence his opponents on the Senate foreign relations committee used against him.

In that article he not only criticized the lack of verification procedures built into Salt 2 but made the more sweeping criticism of arms control accords for failing to slow down the Soviet Union's military build-up.

This did not mean, he now explains, that he was opposed to arms control talks as such, as some of his Democratic opponents have alleged. But he felt the history of arms control in the past 15 years had been disappointing and called for a new approach.

As he sees it, previous US administrations have, for political reasons, been over anxious to achieve agreements with the Soviet Union at almost any cost, though such pacts did little to enhance American security. They have not really made the world a less dangerous place.

This is why he favours the Reagan policy of seeking "deep cuts" in the US and Soviet arsenals, rather than the approach favoured by many arms control specialists of chipping away at the edges of Soviet military might.

Pinochet's big state sell-off backfires

Immediately after the coup which overthrew the left-wing administration of President Salvador Allende in 1973, General Pinochet set less than an economic revolution. Using the theories espoused by Professor Milton Friedman and some bright young Chilean disciples from the University of Chicago, the new president set about dismantling the various state controls. They had been blamed for a daunting inflation rate of 600 per cent and drastic food shortages.

Under the late President Allende and indeed previous administrations, much of the economy was run by the state. As long ago as 1939 the Corporación de Fomento (Corfo) had been established to foster the country's transformation into a modern industrial power.

By 1970 some 300 businesses were owned by Corfo and during President Allende's three years in power a further 100 or so companies were taken over by the central government.

In the enthusiasm for privatisation of the country's industrial base, President Pinochet had sold off more than 400 state-owned companies so that by 1980, only 42 remained under state control and half of these were up for sale.

The swift disposal of so many businesses when the economy was beginning to slow down and interest rates were high meant that few were in a position to buy. This resulted inevitably in a small handful of people owning a majority of the country's sources of production.

Police have launched a big sweep through working-class districts near Santiago, where violent disturbances broke out on Friday. Weekend reports said more than 100 people were detained. The unrest came after the funerals of a young taxi driver and a boy of 15 shot on Wednesday after anti-government protests.

A week earlier, police clashed with workers and students making an illegal protest march through the centre of Santiago.

On May Day, during a similar demonstration, 10 people were injured and 100 arrested in clashes between protesters and assault, in civilian clothes, wielding clubs. Police did not intervene.

These incidents illustrate the growing sense of frustration felt by ordinary Chileans about the dramatically worsening economic and human rights situation. In the first of two articles, our foreign staff trace the background to the latest unrest.

private hands. Interest rates were determined by free market forces and restrictions on the free movement of capital overseas were completely abolished.

In 1976, Chile withdrew from the Andean Pact, one of whose "basic" tasks was "after preferential treatment for goods produced in its member states."

Finally, agricultural reforms initiated by President Allende and his predecessor, President Eduardo Frei, came to an abrupt end under General Pinochet. About 30 per cent of Chile's agricultural land was returned to its original owners, 20 per cent was auctioned off to non-farming sectors and only 30 per cent remained in the hands of the smallholder farmers who had benefited from the reform programme.

Before 1973 the latter had been able to take advantage of special credit and technical assistance arrangements run by the state. But after the military

States is seen as a sign of its deteriorating relations with China over various contentious issues, especially favourable American treatment of Taiwan. The case has disturbing implications for anyone - Chinese or foreign - who attempts to follow the affairs of this country intelligently.

Journalists routinely exchange views and gossip with people they know or suspect to be intelligence agents, including diplomats and military attaches of their own embassies. To receive payment is another matter, but it is an interesting legal point whether a payment accepted in Hongkong can be considered evidence of a crime in the People's Republic.

The nationality and protection of the more than five million Chinese residents of Hongkong is an extremely complex subject because only a small number have all the rights of citizenship of the United Kingdom. Most have only a vague claim to British protection or none at all when they travel overseas or in China.

The naming of the United Kingdom as the "People's Republic of China" is an extremely complex subject because only a small number have all the rights of citizenship of the United Kingdom. Most have only a vague claim to British protection or none at all when they travel overseas or in China.

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THE ARTS

Television
National
colours

"A man couldn't ask for a prettier day", says John Brown on the gallows, upright as a Saturn rocket before the hangman sends him in who-knows-what direction. So Sterling Hayden, for it really was he, ended a cameo part, doubtfully as his name suggests, in *The Blue and the Gray*, which began last night on BBC1. He departed early on, leaving us to face most of the five hours and five minutes of this Civil War saga, which continues tonight and concludes tomorrow.

To be fair, this one began well. The war is to be seen through the eyes of the artist John Geyser, born in Virginia but confirmed in his anti-slavery views when slave hunters hang his black friend for sheltering runaways.

When the war starts, his brothers are on the Southern side while he journeys with the North. He has met and sketched Abraham Lincoln, recognizable, despite the built-up nose, as our old, grave friend Gregory Peck—especially grave on this occasion, maybe because that nose is uncomfortable.

Geyser, attractively and earnestly played by John Hammond, is present at the first battle of Bull Run. It is watched by senators and their ladies from Washington but their picnic is snarled up in the ensuing rout.

All is not lost here for Geyser, however, for he meets a senator's daughter, Kathy Reynolds (Kathleen Beller), in the most trying conditions and starts the road to romance by slapping her across the face to stifle her hysterics. He has also made a friend of Jonas Steele (Stacy Keach), the President's bodyguard, a mysterious man given to prophetic dreams, one of which almost stops him proposing to Geyser's pretty cousin thereby closing off a promising sub-plot.

But *The Blue and the Gray* is entered into by everybody with great gusto, as befits such a sad national remembrance. With more than 2,000 participating it certainly does have a cast too numerous to mention, but everything is well handled by the director Andrew V. McLaglen. If the eyes do not take it all in at once, the videos surely will.

Dennis Hackett

Opera

Not a trace of pomposity

Die Meistersinger
Covent Garden

Wagner's humane comedy returned to Covent Garden on Saturday in a revival that is better than ripe: it is very much alive. In the pit Sir Colin Davis bypasses traditional wisdom and solemnity in favour of a frank response to the music, a spring attack rather than an autumn remembering. The accompaniment to Sachs's third act monologue, for instance, realizes all the sounds of conflict as well as the sweetness, and the pagantry at the end is hearteningly free of pomposity. Even the overture has more of

passionate sword-thrust than stately procession about it.

The principal singers are mostly those who worked with Sir Colin on the last revival a year ago. Hans Sotin as Sachs falls in with his conductor in avoiding portentousness: this is no philosopher cobbler but a simple artisan, who sings in a manner-of-fact style and compensates for possible shallowness with the dignity and beauty of his tone. Among the other Meistersingers, Gwynne Howell is a deep, still, admirable Pogner, and John Gibbs makes an effective new Kothner. The one sadness is that these performances bring us the last of Sir Geraint Evans's mean but acutely lovable Beckmesser. On the side of youth and

love, Lucia Popp is again a radiant Eva, of unaffected pure sound and long phrases of a wholly natural elegance. I am afraid one hears the quietest very much as an accompanist for her, despite the positive contributions of the others. Among them is Robert Tear's exciting and vocally daring David, a performance to crown a season of remarkable versatility and success for him.

Robert Ilosfalvy, who has arrived at Wagner's more lyrical heroes after three decades on the operatic stage, contributes a less than wonderful Walther, but one cannot grumble when everywhere else there is such benignity.

Paul Griffiths



Lucia Popp: radiant and naturally elegant

Cannes Film Festival

Irresistible urge to scandalize

A Cannes favourite for a quarter of a century, the Italian director Marco Ferreri says of his new film, *Storia di Piersa*, that "it is up to the spectator to build up his own story with the material I have assembled"—which might seem a rather high-handed approach, particularly since the material provided is so largely incoherent. The film is not as grossly offensive as *La Grande Bouffe*, *L'ultima donna* or *Tales of Ordinary Madness*, though Ferreri cannot ever resist the urge to scandalize (he touches the nadir of pornography with a scene in which Isabelle Huppert raises her skirt to reveal—thanks to the magic of montage—some other lady's public parts).

The film is based on Piersa Degli Esposto's memoirs of

family life, with an incorrigibly promiscuous mother and a devoted if somewhat abstracted communist father, both of whom she loved equally and incestuously. The fact that the multinational, all-star family is composed of Huppert, Hanna Schygulla and Marcello Mastroianni does not enhance belief, any more than Ferreri's obvious delight in the scandalous bits encourages confidence in his claims that this ragged slice of life is all about man's destiny.

Mrinal Sen's *The Case is Closed* is a reassuring contrast. It has none of the gloss of Ferreri, but its credibility lies precisely in its rough, indignant urgency. Sen brings us closer than any other film-maker to the daily life of his country.

His new film investigates a small Calcutta incident. A 12-year-old boy—one of ten million infant employed—who works as a domestic servant for a middle-class couple, dies suddenly one night. The cause seems to be carbon monoxide poisoning caused by sleeping in an unventilated kitchen. The consequent investigations reveal more about the fears and guilt of the middle-class employers, however, than about the physical causes of the accident. The ultimate message of this quietly unrelenting film, with its constant turmoil of faces, accusing and accused, is that the greatest of social crimes is indifference.

David Robinson

Dance

Young experience

Swan Lake
Covent Garden

Three further casts have followed Samsova and Ashmore into the leads in Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet's *Swan Lake*, but only one of them really brought the production to life. That was when Margaret Barbieri played Odette and Odile, with Desmond Kelly as Siegfried and a bonus in Alain Dubreuil's Rothbart, as vivid and sinister as something out of *Star Wars*.

Barbieri not only dances the ballerina role more strongly than the other contestants, she gives the part more emotion and character too: a very gentle heroine in the lakeside scenes, a dangerously seductive double in the ballroom. Kelly acts Siegfried with conviction and partners magnificently.

One advantage Barbieri has over Marion Tait and Sheryl Kennedy is that she had her first taste of ballerina roles while still a teenager, and, although Royal Ballet policies then enforced a cruel hiatus, the early experience counts. It is difficult to give a really good dancer responsibilities too soon, and easy to leave it too late. Tait and Kennedy both dance with care and understanding, but the theatrical magic is not there.

This production is likely to come into its own when the management summons up courage to put some of the really young dancers into the leads.

Concerts

RLPO/Handley
Philharmonic Hall
Liverpool/Radio 3

Music which falls easily upon the ear is not necessarily by definition either good or bad. A work's status is determined merely by its power to set in motion the coils of the imagination and the intellect. If there was an outwardly undemanding piece which failed in the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra's concert on Saturday it was not William Mathias's Second Symphony, which received a brilliant world premiere under Vernon Handley, forming the climax of this year's Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society's contemporary composer seminar.

Mathias has valuable things to say, even if his manner is sometimes a little garrulous. True, his occasional pieces, like the setting of Psalm 67 now known universally as the "Royal Wedding Anthem", and the Investiture Anniversary Fanfare, both of which we heard in performances of brass repulse, have no profundities to utter. Indeed there is something almost wicked about their jaunty, a Walton-like sparkle in the eye.

The new symphony, however, like Walton's First, has deeper aspirations. It is subtitled *Summer Music*, although its chief atmospheric concern is predictably with things Celtic. "Aestive regio" (summer region) the first movement, explores rather than fully develops two main ideas. In

spite of Mathias's effusive manner the effect achieved here is a magical one of solid granite cliffs, of primeval and frantic Dionysian rites and of mystery and remoteness.

The second movement is prefaced by a line translated from the sixteenth-century Welsh poet Taliesin, "My original country is the region of the summer stars". With the incantations of the woodwind and the static harmonies there are echoes here of Messiaen; although Mathias cannot resist building to a huge and brassy climax, thereby spoiling his spiritual and cosmological allusion. But the finale, exultantly reflecting the closing words of Dylan Thomas's prologue to the collected poems, reaffirms a conviction which was heard to be lamentably lacking in Delius's dull response to Walt Whitman's ecstatic *Sea Drift*, despite the superlative singing of Peter Knapp and the Liverpool Philharmonic Chorus.

Stephen Pettitt

EBF/Gönnenwein
Festival Hall

A beautifully interlocked Bach programme to celebrate the twenty-first English Bach Festival: the Fourth Suite, the Christmas Cantata which borrows its opening movement and the E flat *Magnificat* from which Bach took a duet for the cantata. This *Magnificat*, with its four lightweight interpretations, does not have the

Theatre

The Great Eric
Ackroyd Disaster
Coliseum, Oldham

"Welcome to North" says the cloth-capped narrator, addressing an audience of approximately 500 locals and me. Almost at once however he is upstaged by the world-famous smoke of Grindlay's Smokeworks, belching in from the wings, descending in murky drapes from the flies and sending a shower of begrimed pigeon corpses thudding at his feet.

Feeding happily on "soot and chips" and dusting their babies like furniture, the people of Badchester are extremely proud of their smoke which Grindlay's exist specially to produce. All this is good bitter hilarity up in these parts, but only Bill Tidy, whose first play this is, could have devised the Spriggs Trophy for industrial coughing, coughed for at Wembley and won by Badchester for 93 successive years.

Devotees of the "Cloggies" in *Private Eye* will find the Badchester coughers no disappointment in Pat Trueman's production. Their angry little faces (one with the characteristic Bill Tidy spectacles) are much closer to the cartoonist's style than Tom Courtenay's Andy Capp was. Especially champion smokekicker Eric (John McArdle), who turns aside momentarily from making Ackroyd's famous Spotted Number 12 to boast to the audience, and releases a burst of

fresh air on the unprotected town. Instantly the old asphyxiate, the coughers' lungs are wrecked and public indignation drives Eric to exile in the most appalling place they can think of.

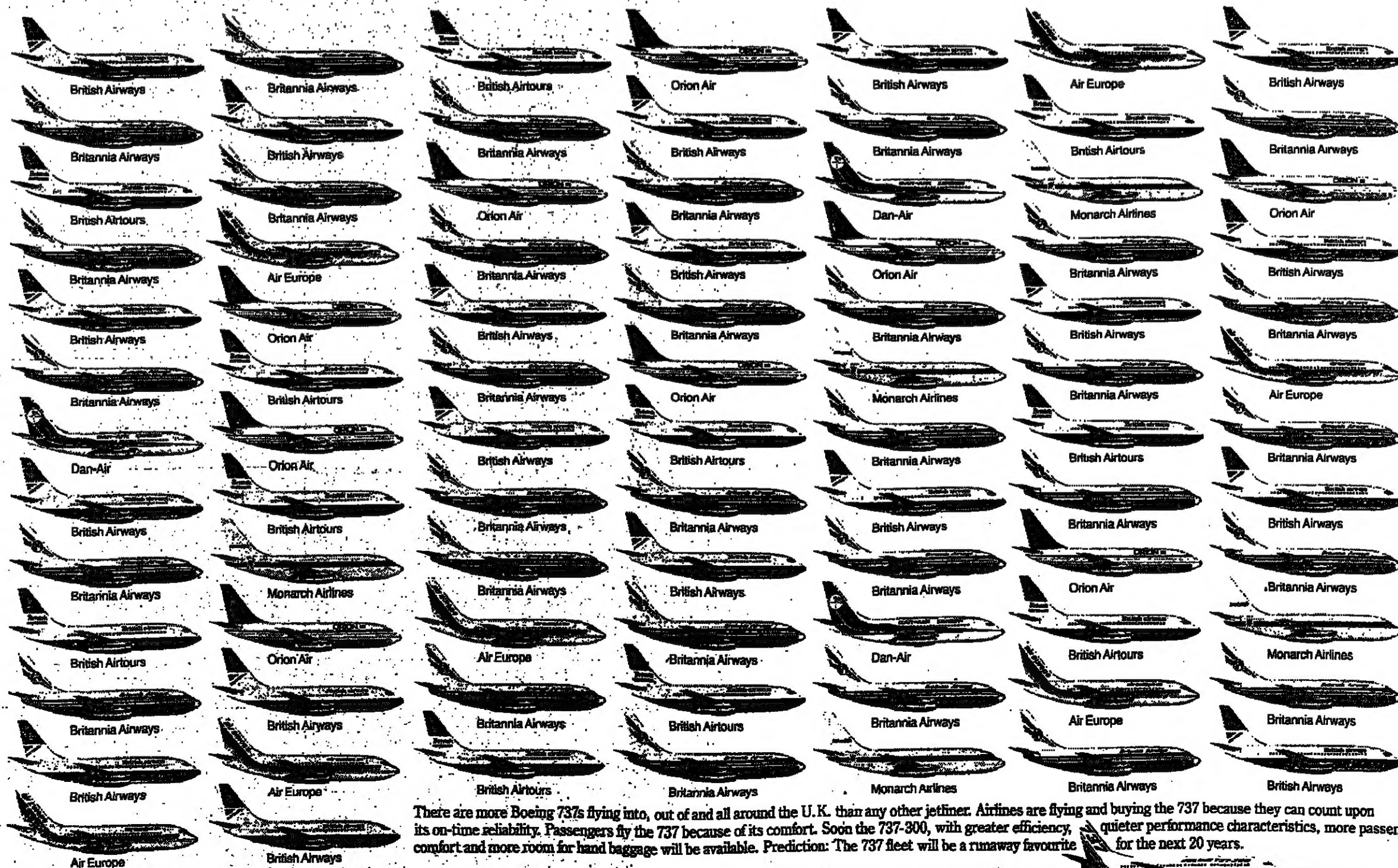
London is kind, however. In no time he moves in with the red-wigged miniskirted Nellie (Barbara Rosenblat) whose "ample acreage" won her the Golden-Hearted Whore of the Year Trophy in 1975, has his own chat show and wears his filthy old mac to a Royal Garden Party where the Queen (Elizabeth Kelly) addresses him graciously and is rewarded with a piece of cold tripe. Only a stress-induced addiction to Soapo (a remarkable washing-up liquid running at 97 degrees proof) prevents his being elected Prime Minister as "a shining example of northern grit". But rest assured that we do get to Wembley and that the male voice choirs from nearby Rossendale and Radcliffe have the time of their lives competitively coughing "Yellow Submarine" and the Hebrews Chorus from *Nabucco*.

Some episodes are flat or poorly motivated and this plot still has infinite untapped possibilities. Brian Jacques's songs, though enjoyable and musical, are too leisurely and their brass quartet scoring drowns the voices. But they still have a hit here. And the theatre shop surely ought to sell bottled Grindlay's smoke to take home. How else can I breathe in Kensington?

Anthony Masters

FLY THE LEADER.

The largest fleet in the U.K.



There are more Boeing 737s flying into, out of and all around the U.K. than any other jetliner. Airlines are flying and buying the 737 because they can count upon its on-time reliability. Passengers fly the 737 because of its comfort. Soon the 737-300, with greater efficiency, quieter performance characteristics, more passenger comfort and more room for hand baggage will be available. Prediction: The 737 fleet will be a runaway favourite for the next 20 years.

BOEING
Getting people together.

JUNE 1983 Behind every would-be Prime Minister is a would-be Kitchen Cabinet. This week The Times looks at the campaign leaders and their advisers. First, Peter Stothard on Mrs Thatcher's team

Off to work they go

To close observers of Downing Street life one of the first signs of a summer election came in February with the news that a certain Alison Ward had been asked not to arrange her holidays for June. The object of this attention was at that time not even working for the Prime Minister. She had been a forceful constituency secretary for Mrs Thatcher in the late 1960s and early 1970s. She had left to become secretary to Sir John Clark at Plessey and to Tory Party Treasurer Alistair McAlpine. She was not expecting to return to the political front line.

The Prime Minister, however, had other ideas. Her concern was that her most trusted personal assistant, Caroline Stevens, had a baby in the offing and a candidate for a husband, former Number Ten political secretary Richard Ryder, who would need a candidate's wife to help with fleshing out the constituency. Alison Ward was first choice to stand by for election tour duty. She quickly agreed and an early ripple of speculation was launched to well-informed MPs and would-be MPs - also to all the many others who felt that they too should play a part in the backroom battle to elect their leader.

From typists to speechwriters, from fact-gatherers to muck-spreaders, the team that will guide Mrs Thatcher's personal path to the poll on June 9 is now almost complete. As we will show in this series over the next two days, the rival party leaders have very different attitudes to advisers and the advice that they give. But there are important similarities, too. Nothing is more dangerous in a short campaign than the unexpected disaster that can come from the tiniest of causes. If the campaign teams can simply keep their bosses off the banana skins they will more than earn their keep. And if that means having some of the highest-qualified handbag-holders and travel agents in history, no price will be too high - at least for the Tories.

Perhaps the most famous of the high-earning Thatcher men is set to arrive in London tomorrow. If Alison Ward could be made ready for the campaign in comparative secrecy, Gordon Reece, the flamboyant public relations man who masterminded Mrs Thatcher's image in 1979, could not. It is said that the Prime Minister deliberately asked him to stay in the United States (where he has been for several years working for the industrialist and art collector Armand Ham-

mer) until the announcement of the election had been made. As one colleague put it: "Gordon had only to get within a hundred miles of Land's End for poll fever to become an epidemic."

So not until Wednesday does Reece rejoin a team which at the moment looks roughly as follows. Among what becomes a virtual personal staff will be her parliamentary private secretary Ian Gow and a party vice chairman, Michael Spicer, Sir Ronald Miller and Ferdinand Mount as speechwriters; David Wolfson, her chief of staff; Stephen Sherbourne who will conduct her breakfast briefing, John Whittingdale, head of the political section in the research department, who will provide up-to-date facts and figures on tour and the highly experienced party officer, Roger Boaden, who for the fifth time will be organizing a Tory leader's tour logistics.

On the surface, both the names of the advisers and their strategy might appear simple enough. The view is widely held within the Tory Party that the policy is clear, the opinion polls massively and firmly in their favour, the opposition in disarray and that the job for Mrs Thatcher's team is little more than to steer a straight course to victory. But as seen from inside the Thatcher camp, it does not look that way at all.

Today - which in the militaristic terminology employed by Roger Boaden and his men is known as "D-day minus 24" - the focus of uncertainty is the arrival of Gordon Reece. To paraphrase the words of an earlier Tory Prime Minister, he may not terrify the opposition parties but he certainly frightens his own side. The late entrance of last time's hero has in a curious way, thrown up all sorts of doubts about this campaign, how different it is from 1979, how different the country is, how different she is. As one senior participant put it last week: "Will Gordon realize how much has changed, how electing a prime minister differs from electing an opposition leader, how the old battles don't need to be fought all over again?"

It is reluctantly accepted amongst the current advisers that Reece is a man in whom she has complete personal trust. Although no fan of his Ronnie Corbett looks and high



lifestyle, the fine champagnes and the big cigars, she associates his judgement with her victory. As another close observer puts it: "If Labour narrows the gap (as it surely must), and if the Alliance looks threatening (which it must on at least one day) Gordon Reece could rock what is a carefully prepared boat."

A Tory critic put it more crudely: "There is so much more at stake for Thatcher's people now. There is no one to equal her; they are not so much advisers in a common cause as aides waiting for patronage. They are worried that when the going gets rough Gordon may take away their rewards for four years' service. And because of the ideological purges, there is hardly anyone there who has fought an election at this level. It's like an Isthmian league side with one world class player."

The first official meeting in the Prime Minister's electioneering day will be with her party chairman, Cecil Parkinson, and the 37-year-old economist and political adviser, Stephen Sherbourne who on Friday left - possibly for ever - his publicly paid job in Patrick Jenkin's office at the Department of Industry. Sherbourne is one of the most experienced survivors in a Research Department class that was highly regarded under Edward Heath, but has been the object of downgrading and suspicion by Mrs

Thatcher. He and Parkinson will brief her on issues that have arisen overnight and points that are likely to come up at the 9.30 am press conference. Anthony S. Inskip, former Now! editor, head of press and publicity, also be in attendance.

If she is travelling to an engagement out of London, this job of continuous briefing of opposition statements and the finding of facts and figures with which to counter them, passes to John Whittingdale, the recently appointed head of the Research Department's political section. Whittingdale is a surprise appointment, a 23-year-old Wykehamist known to his friends alternatively as "Mole" or "Bat". He joined the party five years ago as a "library boy", collecting cuttings and politically useful information for the Research Department. Counter to the old departmental trend he has impeccable "dry" economic credentials.

The choice of this very young man to travel with the Prime Minister in such a position has already raised a few eyebrows. To critics it underlines still further the cheapskate back-up which the Research Department can now provide.

Some of the biggest arguments are about where the Prime Minister goes and what she does when she gets there. It is already clear that there are to be fewer overnight stops than in 1979,

"less crashing around in ghastly airport hotels" as one erstwhile sufferer put it. Her programme over the past few months has been carefully planned so that in the event of a short campaign she would not have to return to every major city. The choice of sites for key rallies is a bit like choosing grounds for test matches. Certain ones are inevitable but others need not be taken up every time. Manchester, Birmingham and Cardiff and Glasgow are essential. Leeds may not get another turn. There is a strong strain of advice from Parkinson and the party bureaucracy that in the closing days of the campaign - from D-day minus 4 - she should play to her strength - in the south-east - and not attempt a barnstorming assault on the enemy rearmament. But such decisions may be overturned several times before the final choice has to be made. A Prime Minister even has a perfect security cover for late changes in itinerary.

Security considerations also affect the locations and frequency of the "walkabouts" at which Mrs Thatcher so excelled in 1979. They may be fewer of these at the beginning of the campaign this time - and Parkinson's team are making plans for them to avoid confined spaces such as

shopping arcades which give too great an opportunity to organized opposition.

As for the choice of transport, Mrs Thatcher has a well-known aversion to trains. She has also turned down a benefactor's offer of a McDonnell Douglas aircraft for the campaign on the grounds that it would not be right for her to travel in a non-British plane. The services of Sir Hector Laing's United Biscuits' aircraft are likely to be called upon again. And in charge of implementing the chosen itinerary will be the indefatigable Boaden who first did the job for Edward Heath 13 years ago and who not even the most jealous onlooker could say was the wrong man for the task ahead.

No one has the absolute job of chief of the Prime Minister's touring party. The title of joint major domo on the political side goes to a cox-and-box partnership between Ian Gow, Mrs Thatcher's Parliamentary Private Secretary and Michael Spicer, economist, party vice-chairman, and the man responsible for wielding the Parkinson axe to cut staff costs inside Central Office. Both have seats that require little tending - let alone fighting - Gow amongst the pensioners of Eastbourne and Spicer amongst the Worcestershire fruitfarmers. Gow looks like a stern Victorian solicitor with bald pate, waistcoat and watch chain and is much happier in green baize corridors than drafty provincial halls. Spicer is a tough-minded economist who - excepting an unfortunate venture into political fiction writing - has a much better record in the art of being most things to most men. Each plans to be with the Prime Minister about half the time.

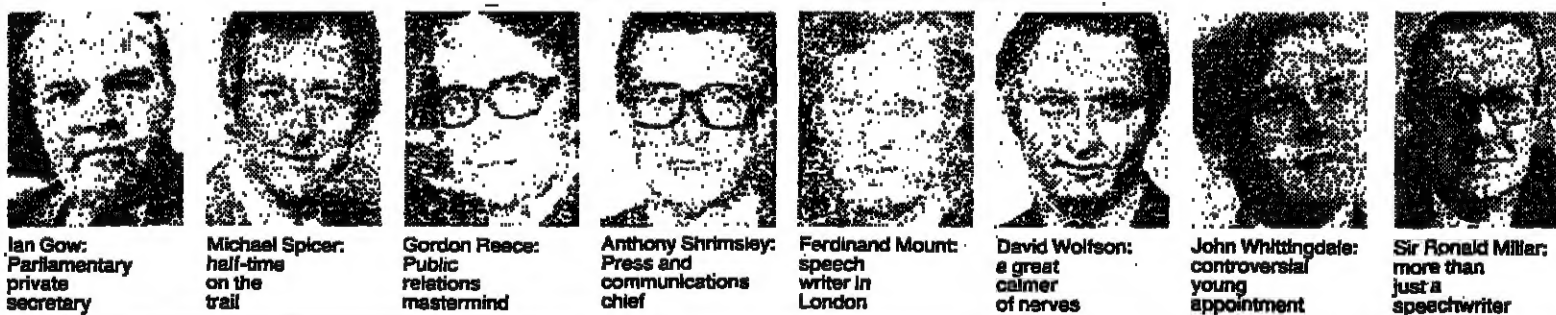
Spicer has some reputation as a cajoler and calmer of political women - having cut his teeth as Parliamentary Private Secretary to Sally Oppenheim. The doyen of this art, however - at least according to legend - is David Wolfson, who for the past four years has been Mrs Thatcher's chief of staff in Downing Street. Facts about his exact role are exceedingly hard to come by. When he turned up in Jerusalem earlier this year as a special emissary to Mr Begin, it was the first firm fact about his job in four years. Nonetheless he is apparently a brilliant soother of the prime ministerial brow. Along with his wife Sue who will help with Mrs Thatcher's clothes, he is likely to be with her throughout.

Along the campaign trail there are, of course, speeches to be written and amended in the light of changing tactics and events. Six main texts are likely to be prepared in advance - each on a central issue - so far including nuclear disarmament, unemployment and social services. Ferdinand Mount, the head of the Downing Street Policy Unit, seems likely to stay in London to coordinate these. Sir Ronald Miller, the playwright and famous phrase maker will travel with her to suit that night's text to the precise effect it is desired to achieve.

The man who gave the country "U-turn if you like, the lady's not for turning" no doubt has some other gems in his typewriter. But Miller is much more than an embroiderer of party-back prose. He has a close personal rapport with her and, if anyone in the team can stand before her and say that her performances are off beam or below par, it is he. Miller is also likely to have an important hand in the crucial last party political broadcast. He is a close associate of Gordon Reece and, if the campaign ever risks sinking into the "Steady as you go" complacency that critical observers fear, these two "veterans", as Cecil Parkinson calls them, will be the men most likely to pull the act out of the doldrums.

Later this week the Thatcher circus leaves town - in all its glitter and nervousness. In what is hoped will be the last piece of pre-election bad-touring, visitors to Conservative Central Office last Wednesday had to step over piles of old carpet which, thanks to an anonymous benefactor was being turned out in favour of a splendid blue-and-cream diamond patterned replacement. "Just in time for Maggie's victory celebration," suggested a journalist to one of many harassed officials. "Someone's just said it's for Gordon Reece", came the reply.

All the Prime Minister's men



Ian Gow: Parliamentary private secretary

Michael Spicer: half-time on the trail

Gordon Reece: Public relations mastermind

Anthony S. Inskip: Press and communications chief

Ferdinand Mount: speech writer in London

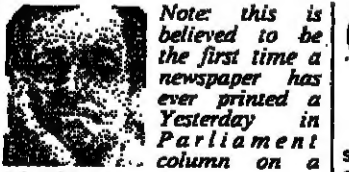
David Wolfson: a great calmer of nerves

John Whittingdale: controversial young appointment

Sir Ronald Miller: more than just a speechwriter

Yesterday in Parliament

MOREOVER... Miles Kingston



Note: this is believed to be the first time a newspaper has ever printed a Member of Parliament column on a Monday.

Business commenced at 11.18. Those present included the Cleaner of the House, the Deputy Cleaner, the Gentleman Polisher and the Bag Boy.

The Cleaner of the House said she wished to draw the House's attention to the mess left behind by the members of Parliament. She had worked in some untidy offices in her day, notably in the newspaper industry, but she had never seen anything like the rubbish left behind by the elected representatives of the House of Commons. If this was the way they treated the Chamber, she wanted to know, then how did they look after the country?

The Deputy Cleaner agreed and said that the amount of empty wrappers reminded her of Hampstead Heath after a Bank Holiday. She said that something should be done about it. For instance, she had just found a champagne bottle under a seat.

The Gentlemen Polisher wanted to know if there was anything left in it.

Deputy Cleaner: "No."

The Cleaner of the House said the cleanest place she had ever worked at was a lost property office in a big station. The people who worked there knew that if they ever left anything lying around, it would only be handed in to them.

The Deputy Cleaner showed the House a file she had just found and revealed that it was marked "Highly Confidential". She accused the Government of acting in a manner prejudicial to the national interest. She added that she also blamed the Opposition, the Alliance and that messy man from Northern Ireland whose name she could never remember, the one who left all the Guinness bottles. She wanted to know what she ought to do with the confidential file.

Gentleman Polisher: "Is there anything in it?"

Deputy Cleaner (after a pause): "Sandwiches." (Laughter.)

The Bag Boy, in his maiden speech in the House, asked where the Queen sat when she made her speech.

Deputy Cleaner: "Over there."

Cleaner of the House: "The

decision of Mrs Thatcher to hold a general election is certainly a good one. It gives us of the Parliamentary workforce a bit of time to clear up before the next batch of elected rogues come pouring in." She went on to say that she hoped Mrs Thatcher would be re-elected, as she liked a woman's touch about the House.

The Deputy Cleaner disagreed, saying that it didn't matter who got in. They were all the same, they all made a mess of things.

The Gentleman Polisher said she showed a lot of cynicism for one so young.

Deputy Cleaner: "Get you, Brasso fingers."

The Bag Boy (sitting where the Queen sat) "My Government intends to bring in savage legislation to prevent MPs from leaving litter around. Any MP found dropping rubbish will be fined £1,000 and have his nose rubbed in it. I also intend to raise the wages of the Westminster Bag Boy to £50,000 a year and have him created Lord Waste Paper of Basket."

The Gentleman Polisher ruled these remarks out of order, saying that they showed

disrespect to the House and the Royal Family. He gave him a clip round the earlobe.

The Deputy Cleaner said she would give a lot to know which one of them stuck chewing gum under his seat.

Gentleman Polisher: "What flavour?"

The Cleaner of the House said that Old Spit and Polish seemed to have an obsession with food and drink.

The Gentleman Polisher said he was sorry, but it must be nostalgia for the old place. He had until recently been an MP himself, but had failed to win re-election in his constituency and had fallen on evil days, now being reduced to menial tasks about Westminster. He produced a bottle from his pocket and asked if anyone wanted a dram.

The Cleaner said no, personally, but she was dying for a bag and a cup of tea. She proposed that the business of the House be adjourned for 15 minutes while refreshment was taken.

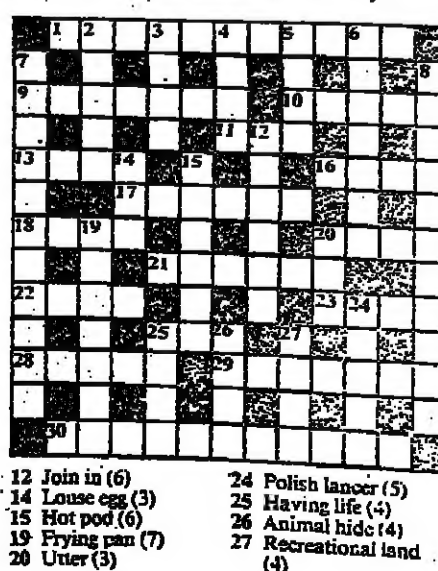
The result of the voting on this motion was three for, one against and one abstention, the Bag Boy being now asleep in the place where the Queen sat. The House rose at 11.43, the Bag Boy being removed by the ear by the Gentleman Polisher.

TOMORROW

Nicholas Wapshott looks at the men around Michael Foot as the Labour Party struggles to arrange its affairs for an effective election fight

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 60)

- ACROSS
- Cost label (5,6)
 - Information seller (7)
 - Fashion (5)
 - Payment (3)
 - At that time (4)
 - Fleur-de-lis (4)
 - Breathe in (6)
 - Eject (4)
 - Occur in unison (4)
 - Blood fluid (6)
 - Debt note (4)
 - Chinese money (4)
 - Fastener (3)
 - Viral disease (5)
 - Makes possible (7)
 - Goods count (11)
- DOWN
- Indian coin (5)
 - Quote (4)
 - Sad (4)
 - Hollow (4)
 - Keenly (7)
 - Sound transmitter (11)
 - Mal de mer (11)
 - SOLUTION TO No 59



ACROSS: 1 Counsel 5 Valid 8 IRA 9 Plumbob 10 News 11 Spit 12 Leaguer 14 Reminiscently 16 Nodding 18 Rack 21 Excel 22 Opulent 23 Lab 24 Yummy 25 Elderly

DOWN: 1 Cape 2 Usurp 3 Substantially 4 Libel 5 Vantage ground 6 Lawsuit 7 Destroys 13 Orangery 15 Medicum 17 Globe 19 Clear 20 Stay

Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise.



Fortnum & Mason

— an occasional commentary on Important Events — Derby Day

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What comes after the smoked salmon, Henry? Roast Suckey chicken, followed by pear Hélène? Scrumptious. Good old Hampers. Hampers, Vanessa. He's my marvellous man at Fortnums.

No, Henry, that's his name — Hampers. Don't argue, dear. I know it's his name because when I ring Fortnums and ask for Hampers, they put me straight through to him.

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PROFILE: Quentin Bell

Who's afraid for Virginia Woolf?

Down in his potter's studio, the emeritus professor of the History and Theory of Art is hard at it assembling an exhibition of his work. It makes a change from setting the record straight on his misunderstood aunt.

To discover the powerhouse of one of England's enduring export industries it is necessary to penetrate deepest Sussex, into the lazy green countryside that spreads beneath the South Downs, and into an English country garden all set about with terracotta statues in the Italian manner.

Cobbe Place is the home of Quentin Bell and his wife, Anne Olivier Bell. Two miles in one direction lies Monk's House, five miles in the other is Charleston. This is the heart of the Virginia Woolf belt.

Quentin, Virginia's nephew, now aged 73, balding and massively white-bearded like a storybook mad professor, emerged from his potter's studio in overalls and wellingtons, patting off clouds of white dust. The emeritus professor of the History and Theory of Art at Sussex University was busily engaged in assembling an exhibition of his work for display at Liberty's in London to coincide with the publication of his latest book, *Techniques of Terracotta*, which has nothing whatsoever to do with his aunt.

But the spectre of Virginia will not go away. Since Quentin published his definitive two-volume biography of her more than ten years ago, Woolf-dissection, particularly on the Eng. Lit. campuses of the United States, has become a British export success on a par with Dimple Haig and the Harrier jump jet.

Quentin, it must be said, does not care for much of it. "When Leonard Woolf asked me to do the biography in 1966, it was a task I took on very unwillingly. I was very much torn, because there is always a feeling of suspicion on the part of the reader about biographies written by close members of the subject's family."

"On the other hand, one knows what is probable. I am very glad that I did it now, people really had the wildest ideas about her. It is a good thing that there should be a record which, whatever its other faults, is substantially true."

Although the work was received enthusiastically by a majority of reviewers at the time, it has come under full frontal attack since, particularly from feminists. Quentin has become well used to fusillades of male chauvinist pigery.

"People feel very passionately about Virginia, particularly women; they have some image of her that they want, and they find it very painful at times to recognize that the facts do not bear them out. I am

afraid my book is quite unacceptable to many people."

Virginia has become almost a Joan of Arc figure to some sections of the feminist movement. Germaine Greer once paid a visit to Cobbe Place and told Quentin and his wife Anne Olivier Bell, a second cousin of Lord Olivier, that they were operating an illegal closed shop in the Virginia Woolf industry.

Quentin is not amused. "Those feminists are misinterpreting her, because it does not give them the impression they want. That doesn't matter; what does worry me is that some of the things that are appearing in the name of scholarship are quite crazy, and there is a danger that the whole of Woolf scholarship will become a joke. Some women believe she was a Marxist, and you will have noticed the really lunatic speculation in *The Times Literary Supplement* that Leonard tried to murder Virginia."

The controversy has brought an endless stream of earnest Americans to the Bells' door, although the procession is now beginning to tail off.

Quentin has no intention of writing anything ever again about his aunt, but he is still concerned to put the record straight.

"The Americans have seized on her as a great protagonist of feminism. She has a certain universal appeal in that people can find anything they want in her. Of course feminism was a very strong trait in her, but it is grossly exaggerated. She was very interested in the wrongs of her sex, and rightly so, but it is ridiculous to suggest that she was primarily a feminist. She was, first and foremost, a novelist."

"Anyway," said Quentin, rising to pour coffee into a variety of thick-lipped cups, all wildly different and all made by himself. "Why don't you ask my wife? She knows more about Virginia than anyone else alive."

Anne Olivier first became involved when she undertook the donkey-work of organizing the Woolf diaries to assist Quentin with producing the biography. Now she has edited and produced four volumes of the diaries herself, and is currently at work on the fifth and final volume.

"I never spoke to Virginia in my life. I saw her only once, across a room at a party. It was a wonderful image of a beautiful, distinguished, and riveting figure in a long red dress. A vision. But an impression? No. I go with my nose through the text of her diaries; I am not good at



Harry Kerr

Quentin Bell's career
Born August 19 1910; second son of Clive Bell and Vanessa Stephen
educated Leighton Park
1941-43 Political warfare executive
1952 Lecturer in Art Education, King's College, Newcastle
1958 Senior lecturer
1962-67 Professor of Fine Art, University of Leeds
1964-65 Slade Professor of Fine Art, Oxford University
1965-66 Ferens Professor of Fine Art, Hull University
1967-75 Professor of History and Theory of Art, Sussex University
His books
1947 On Human Finery
1951 Those Impossible English (with Helmut Gernsheim)
1961 Roger Montane
1963 The Schools of Design
1965 Ruskin
1967 Victorian Artists
1968 Bloomsbury
1972 Virginia Woolf, a Biography (James Tail Black Memorial Prize; Duff Cooper Memorial Prize)
1982 A New and Noble School

taking a long term view." Virginia herself would not have been so tactful.

But did not Germaine Greer have a point? Are not the few remaining Bloomsburys, or at least their children, creating a self-perpetuating industry out of a bunch of people who lived rather a long time ago and about whom we non-feminists have really heard more than enough?

Quentin is defensive, in his witty, twinkling way. "At the moment there is enormous interest, whereas 20 years ago there was undue neglect. I have grown up thinking of Bloomsbury as something other people use as a dirty word."

He smiles when reminded that the centenary of Virginia's birth last year passed almost unnoticed, and Anne Olivier cannot resist the dig that on the relevant day, *The Times* list of birthdays included Robert Burns but not Virginia.

But if you were born into Bloomsbury, you cannot entirely shuffle off the coil. Anne Olivier leads the visitor through the rambling house, said by Pevsner to be Elizabethan in parts, and proudly shows off walls hung with Duncan Grants, and a photograph of the Bell's 27-year old daughter Virginia.

The saving grace is in the downstairs lavatory, where hangs a Mark Boxer cartoon from *The Times* showing a Hampstead flutist gazing at a pile of Woolf books. "Afraid of no. Marginally bored with, yes," says the caption.

The same, one suspects, might be said of Quentin. He is charming, patient, even witty, to all enquiries about his aunt, but he would really rather talk about his pottery and sculpture, a field in which he has found the means to break free from the shackles of his upbringing. A stroll round the delightful garden

ends at a brick plinth in the middle of a rose bed, on which reposes a bronze-effect glass fibre figure in fantastic pose, entirely horizontal in mid air in her pre-Raphaelite drapery, supported only by her tumbling headless.

His pottery is different, and to the untutored eye much of it has the quality of what appears to be a school class only recently grown out of plasticine. His medium is terracotta, which he chooses for its boldness and its ability to take brilliant bright colours. Others will be able to judge when it goes on show at Liberty's later this month.

Quentin, at 73, is also working in his first novel. "Well actually I've written dozens, but this is the first one I've thought worthy of being published."

Will it bear any relation to a Virginia Woolf novel?

"Oh, absolutely none. It will have a certain amount of sex and violence in it, but it does not contain a single word that would offend the purest-

maided virgin of the last century. It is like my sculpture: there is a quality of dream, together with a certain realism."

Not unlike being the nephew of an outrageously famous aunt, really: for Quentin Bell, it is the occasional shafts of reason that are most welcome, like that of the lady in Milwaukee who had been corresponding with him for years about his art criticism, and who finally mentioned at the end of a letter: "By the way, I gather you also know something about Virginia Woolf."

Quentin Bell enjoyed that. *Techniques of Terracotta*, by Quentin Bell, Chatto and Windus/The Hogarth Press. To be published on May 26, price £4.95. The Quentin Bell exhibition is at Liberty's, Regent Street, London, from May 26 until June 10.

Alan Hamilton

FINDINGS

A weekly series reporting on research: VICTORIANS

The other side of Victoriana



Angered by what they regard as Mrs Thatcher's unhistorical usurpation of Victorian values to help the Tory cause, a group of socialist historians is going on the offensive to present an alternative view of what nineteenth century Britain was all about.

An all day workshop at Ruskin College, Oxford, next Sunday (May 22) will feature talks on such themes as the Two Nations of Victorian Britain, self-help, servitude and segregation, patriarchy and the family, and Victorian racism. The idea for the meeting, which is being sponsored by the New Statesman, came from the History Workshop Collective which publishes a lively journal of socialist history and runs annual workshops relating contemporary political and social movements to historical trends.

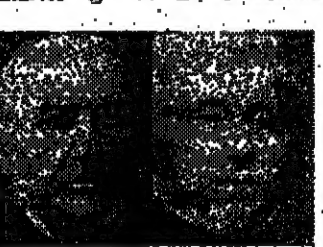
Raphael Samuel, the collective's spokesman says: "I suppose this meeting reflects our indignation as historians at the way in which values which we know to have been deeply divisive and contradictory are being presented as though they were a unified whole. The Victorian period is now playing the same kind of symbolic role in our society as the idea of Merry England did in the period of the Industrial Revolution. It constitutes a kind of golden age which is in reality a complete myth. Indeed, for Mrs Thatcher it represents a lost childhood. She has conflated her memories of the 1930's with an idealized picture of the Victorian Age. In fact, as we hope to show, Victorian England was a divided and distant society which can't just be invoked to provide a set of guiding principles for our own age."

Lavish style

Somewhat surprisingly in these austere and cost-conscious times, the fashion in historical biography seems to be swinging back to the grand Victorian style. Two of the leading statesmen of nineteenth century Britain are currently being subjected to the kind of blockbuster treatment hitherto associated with a more leisurely age.

At the end of last year Allen Lane brought out the first of two volumes on Palmerston by Kenneth Bourne, itself bigger than most single-volume studies. Professor Bourne has used the ample space available to him to go into considerable detail over that part of Pam's life which he describes as *The Ruling Passion*. Numerous early morning liaisons in gardens and bedrooms are chronicled in Italian in the politician's diaries.

How different are the nocturnal affairs tersely recorded in the diaries of W. E. Gladstone



Gladstone and Palmerston

which loom large in the first volume of the massive study of the Liberal politician by Richard Shannon recently published by Hamish Hamilton. There are no less than fifteen references to prostitutes in the index of this first volume. Professor Shannon is fairly certain that Gladstone did not have explicitly sexual relations with the girls on whom he practised his 'rescue' work, but his habit of self-flagellation after several of his encounters, revealed in the recently published diaries, makes clear that there was a clear psycho-sexual element in them.

Ringed changes

A substantial reassessment of the impact of the Oxford Movement on the development of the Church of England is likely to result from a series of events taking place this summer to mark the centenary of the start of the Tractarian Revival.

Traditionally, the Oxford Movement has perhaps been associated principally with the introduction of "bells and smells" and other ritualistic practices into Anglican worship. A major conference at Keele College, Oxford, in July aims to correct this limited and unbalanced

view by focusing on the spirituality and sociology of the Tractarians.

Meanwhile, in a pamphlet just published by the Kent County Archives Office, Kent and the Oxford Movement, Nigel Yates, the county archivist, argues that the movement transformed the Church of England from being an inward-looking body, very much dependent on its links with the state, to a much more assertive and independent body, prepared to take considerable initiative on political and social issues as well as religious matters.

Mr Yates has organized an exhibition on the Oxford Movement in Kent which will tour the county throughout the summer. There will also be lectures by distinguished church historians.

The actual anniversary of the event which launched the Oxford Movement, the preaching of the Assize Sermon in the University Church by John Keble is being celebrated by an outdoor eucharist presided over by the Archbishop of Canterbury in the University Parks on July 16.

Unchained

From High Church to Low. The celebration of another notable anniversary in British religious history is producing an equally significant reinterpretation of a well known figure.

William Wilberforce, the most prominent Evangelical layman of his age, the leader of the small group of MPs known as "The Saints" and, as every schoolboy knows, the man who led the agitation against the slave trade, died 150 years ago this July. The University of Hull, his native city, is staging an impressive number of events to mark the anniversary, ranging from a commemorative cricket match between Yorkshire and the West Indies on June 3 to an international conference on the legacies of West Indian slavery at the end of July.

A series of lectures already held at the University has indicated that a reassessment of Wilberforce's position in history might be overdue. Dr

James Walvin, senior lecturer in history at the University of York, suggested that the role of the Evangelical campaigners in securing the abolition of slavery was not as great as has traditionally been thought. Other speakers argued that Wilberforce should perhaps be remembered less as the man who freed the slaves and more as the model Christian statesman who infused Victorian politicians with notions of morality and righteous causes, or as the "Father of the Victorians" who played a key role in establishing such institutions as family prayers and observance of the Sabbath.

Proud preservers

The Victorian Society is celebrating its twenty-fifth birthday this year by patting itself modestly on the back for its part in helping to save some of Britain's most important nineteenth century buildings and generally raising the level of public appreciation for one of the most inventive periods in our architectural development.

The Society regards as its greatest success the preservation of the Government buildings at the western end of Whitehall which were seriously threatened in 1965 by a plan to create a massive new Government centre. It has also helped to save, at least for the time being, the engine shed of Liverpool Street Station and the eastern galleries of Waterhouse's Natural History Museum, although both are still threatened by eventual redevelopment.

Outside London, the society is proud of its role in helping to prevent the destruction of the General Post Office in Birmingham. It and other major buildings in the city, will be toured in a special walk on September 24 entitled 'Hard Won Successes' and led by the society's chairman, Alan Crawford.

The society is all too aware of its failures over the last quarter century which include such great Victorian constructions as the Great Hall and arch of Euston Station which have disappeared. At the moment it is concerned about the fate of Thoresby Hall in Nottinghamshire, which was bought by the Coal Board in 1980, and is now gradually crumbling as a coal seam is mined under its foundations.

Ian Bradley



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THE TIMES DIARY

Grape shot

Today's candidate, whom I usher in from the political fringe, is an old friend, the wine writer T. A. (Tommy) Layton. He will be contesting Hove for his own Save the Earth Party. His "six good reasons to send me to Parliament", he says in his election address, are really all one: "a plea for legislation to slow down the earth and give our planet a chance to revitalize itself before it dies." Layton specifically denies that he is a crackpot though the picture he has sent me shows only half his head from the cheekbones down. His answer to unemployment is short too: "Ban the word from the dictionary and call it early retirement instead." He is shaving off his much-loved beard to improve his campaign image, and says his friend Clement Freud thinks he has a good chance of winning the seat from the incumbent Tory. "He has invited me up to the Commons so he can show me where I will be sitting."

Floating fund

Matthew Middlemiss, captain of boats at Christ's College, Cambridge, tells me that the 153-year-old Christ's Boat Club is at the brink of bankruptcy. Last week the present Blue boat coxswain was substituting in the Christ's 18 and took the opportunity to hit a large, removing six feet from the bow of the club's brand new boat, recently christened by Countess Mountbatten in honour of her late father. For the boat to be repaired it has to go back to West Germany. The club is making an emergency appeal to its old Boaties.

Subman's holiday

Making his farewell at the Eastbourne annual conference of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants today is the deputy general secretary, Bill Wright, who has looked after the Ministry of Defence for 20 years. Next week he travels to Norway for a retirement holiday, to the Hardanger fjord into which the Royal Norwegian Navy has been pouring large quantities of explosives in the hope of dislodging a suspected Russian submarine. If anybody could find it, Wright's friends at the Anti-Submarine Warfare Establishment at Portland could. Perhaps he should wander down to the fjord side and offer their services.

Common Market jargon is dismaying even supporters of Europeanism. As a leading member of the Union of European Federalists put it at a recent rally: "How can the electors feel love or affection for an organization which refers to flowers as 'non-edible vegetables'?"

Forthercord

Middle East political thrillers by British authors are setting new publishing records in New York. Following Le Carré's pre-publication sale of 40,000 copies of *The Little Drummer Girl* for Knopf, Crown have risked printing 50,000 copies of a lengthy first novel by an unknown television scriptwriter, Morris Farhi. The book, *The Last of Days*, is 560 pages long - less than half Farhi's intended length - and will appear here next week under the Bodley Head imprint. Its bulk, however, has proved a hindrance in the US: more than 20,000 copies have sold during its first two weeks.

Moral support

"What a mingling of good causes yesterday morning up on Hampstead Heath: a dog-walk in aid of spastics, a sponsored plod for the 'British Heart Foundation' and, suddenly, Michael Foot and his dog, Dizzy. The Labour leader did not join the 70 soaking joggers on their 12-mile course, but did make encouraging noises and donated towards the £3,000 total.

Slipping...

I am relieved, but frankly surprised, to have had only one reproach for inadvertently attributing Mark Antony's funeral oration to Brutus in my recent report of David Owen's speech at Hampstead town hall. It is unusual for my readers to be so slack in spotting my slips and crowding over them. Appropriately, the one correction to hand comes from Toby Mason, the prefect of hall at Winchester College, and mercifully he is very nice about it.

Paper mate

"The paperless office, the database society, the cashless society, the office at home" are more or less upon us, proclaims the *Penguin Dictionary of Telecommunications*, published later this month. The author is John Graham, but his wife Diane must know all about it as well, especially the office at home, though not a paperless one. Graham's acknowledgement goes to "my wife Diane, who had to read, correct, index and sequence all the text and type the final manuscript." None of which, supposedly, could be done by the new communications technology he was cataloguing.

Karl von Wagan, a stable troubled Christian Democrat Euro MP, is giving up his electric razor in exasperation. In London last week with a European Parliamentary delegation to discuss the removal of internal trade barriers, he was telling anyone who cared to listen that the profession of different phlophole sizes in member nations had driven him back to the safety razor. With the EEC talking itself on such basics, what possible hope can there be for energy, transport, customs duties and all the rest?

PHS

East-West trade: will the deal stick?

Washington
East-West trade, the issue until only a few months ago threatening the unity of the Atlantic alliance, will not be a bone of contention at the Williamsburg economic summit at the end of this month.

That is official. The Americans are saying so in public, so are the Europeans. The way the matter was handled at last week's ministerial meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris would seem to bear this out.

Yet despite the harmonious chords which have echoed from the recent meetings of the OECD, the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (known as Cocom) and the International Energy Agency, a feeling still persists that East-West trade will remain a divisive issue for some time to come. Some Europeans privately concede there will be more sniping across the Atlantic later this year.

Mr Lionel Olmer, the US Under Secretary for International Trade, does not agree. "I feel persuaded that the East-West trade issue... is not going to be long for this world as an agenda item", he said during an interview after his return from the OECD meeting.

Since last year's row over the Soviet gas pipeline serious thinking has been taking place on both sides of the Atlantic about the value to the West of trade with the Soviet block and the military benefits which the Soviet Union frequently derives by importing high technology imports from the West.

This thinking has centred on the "studies" initiated last autumn as a result of the compromise worked out by Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, which led to the Reagan Administration agreeing to lift the embargo on European suppliers of equipment for the Soviet pipeline.

Most of the studies, which dealt with energy, credits, technology transfers and the broader economic

and military implications of East-West trade, have been completed or are at an advanced stage. Although they contain little in the way of firm recommendations they have produced broad agreement on the need for trade with the Soviet block to be more carefully monitored and regulated by the western allies.

Some analysts believe the present display of harmony is largely cosmetic and is designed to prevent a repetition of the acrimonious exchanges which marked last year's summit at Versailles. "They have only papered over the cracks, but really nothing has been resolved," commented one American observer.

These cracks could appear in a number of ways. First, there is the possibility of "linkage" at the Williamsburg meeting itself - that one of the participants may threaten to make an issue of East-West trade if it feels it is not getting its way on other matters such as exchange rates, interest rates or protectionism.

Cracks could develop when the haggling starts in earnest on the additional high-technology items which should be included in Cocom's list of export controls. Mr Olmer argued that the recent Cocom meeting in Paris had demonstrated the political will to "beef up" the resources to make Cocom a more effective organization, and to investigate and punish violators.

But he conceded that it will take time and a lot more discussion to get

agreement about what items should be included and which ones taken off the list of restricted exports.

The US wants to shorten the Cocom list by eliminating, as he put it, "the lower end of the technological spectrum in return for new controls at the top end." Among the items the US wants to see included on the list are gas turbine engines, electronic grade silicon, printed circuit board technology, robotics, communications switching equipment and computer hardware and software. The Europeans object to the inclusion of some of these items.

This need not be too contentious if the haggling were left to officials from the State Department and the Department of Commerce who are sensitive to European concerns. However the Pentagon sees things differently and has consistently called for much tougher restrictions on trade with the Soviet block. Pentagon officials have advocated placing items which contain even the simplest form of microprocessor on the list of banned exports.

Conflicts between hard-line right-wingers and the more pragmatic members of the Reagan Administration also form the background to a third area of possible dissension between the US and the Europeans. This centres on American plans to extend the Export Administration Act when it comes up for renewal this September.

This is the Act under which the

pipeline sanctions were imposed last year. The Reagan Administration is said to be toughening it by investing the President with even greater authority to restrict the flow of goods from both America and European companies to the Soviet block.

Earlier this month the European Community filed an unusually strong protest expressing its "deep abiding concern" over the new American proposals. Last week Sir Oliver Wright, the British Ambassador, warned that "the alliance may be steering into trouble here." He said the Europeans particularly objected to the extra-territorial and retroactive elements of the legislation.

The Bill which is now before Congress was originally much tougher, but has been substantially watered down by administration pragmatists, led by Mr Olmer, who recognized that it would provoke immediate confrontation with the European allies. However there is concern that hard-liners on strategic trade, such as Mr William Clark, the National Security Adviser and Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, could still ensure it is toughened up again.

Mr Olmer contends that the Bill as it stands at present should satisfy most of the Europeans' special concerns. "Even if they are not happy with it now, I think they'll learn to be happy with it in due course," he said.

For the moment, however, both the Americans and the Europeans have a vested interest in agreement at Williamsburg. President Reagan, who is chairing the conference, clearly wants the meeting to be a success, unmarred by inter-alliance bickering. The Europeans do not wish to do anything that could provoke a sharp American response.

Both sides also broadly share the view contained in a new report by the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment that any action which threatens alliance unity simply plays into Soviet hands.

Nicholas Ashford

Barbara Castle

First slip, now for the run-out

So the chips are down and the Labour Party is in better heart than its opponents would have believed possible even a short while ago. Mrs Thatcher has made her first mistake and Labour is the beneficiary.

The Iron Lady goes into the election with the iron a little bent. I have not the slightest doubt that she did not want to go to the country on June 9 - but if she was pushed, it was her own fault. She had allowed herself to be edged nearer and nearer the precipice for some weeks, when a sharp word to the June speculators would have stopped them in their tracks.

Her claim that a June election is in the "national interest" to stop the election speculation, when she herself has fanned it, just won't wash. She has left herself exposed to the accusation of naked opportunism as the next politician, and she can't be enjoying that.

So she starts her campaign wrong-footed. She is shrewd enough to know that her code-name of "Resolute" has had to be qualified. In the event, she has been resolute for only four years, when she could have had five. Her confidence that the mini-recovery is for keeps has been thrown into doubt by her own act.

What led her to go for June in the end when she was clearly hesitant remains a mystery. But there is no doubt about the psychological consequences. Ironically, the Labour Party, which certainly wanted more time to get its fighting formations into shape, now feels that she has done it a good turn. In the first place, she has closed the Labour Party ranks. More important, she has given its morale a boost through the revelation that her touch is not as sure as it had begun to seem.

Since her great strength lies in the fact that she seems immune from the accidents that trip up ordinary mortals, her first slip is an important break through which will progressively destroy the myth. And once the armour of the infallibility is cracked, all sorts of things can happen unexpectedly to widen that crack when the election heat is on.

Everyone knows that governments survive more out of good luck than out of good management. But good luck seems to stay with those who behave consistently. Mrs Thatcher's mistake is that she has been induced by loss of nerve out of the public's idea of her character. At this moment, an irresistibly reminded of Edward Heath's fatal election bid in 1974. Could it be that by one of the strangest quirks of political history she has repeated the misjudgment of the man she so much despised?

James Reston

A security lesson for Reagan

Washington
President Reagan has been talking recently as if he were back on the old General Electric radio show peddling washing machines.

When his National Commission on Excellence in Education warned the other day of "a rising tide of mediocrity" in the schools and colleges, which "threatens our very future as a nation and a people", he refrained from questioning this gloomy conclusion but blamed it on the intervention of the federal government in education.

When the commission called for tougher requirements in basic high school subjects, for higher college admission standards, for longer school days, for more homework, for higher teacher salaries and for an extended school year, Ronald Reagan's response was that the parents and communities should be responsible for such reforms without expecting more financial aid from Washington.

Never mind what the divorce rate and working mothers have done to complicate the teaching of children at home. Mr Reagan's simplistic answer to this complex and alarming national situation was that the government was not the answer but was itself a large part of the problem.

When he was delivering his little private enterprise sermons for GE before he went into politics, it didn't matter very much. But when the head of the government uses the prestige of his office to portray the government as the enemy of the people, it matters a great deal.

Nobody is arguing that the federal government should or could replace the family and the community as the main guiding force in public education; merely that it should recognize the present national danger and use its powers to help resolve it.

This is what President Lincoln did during another educational crisis. Even in the middle of the Civil War, concerned about the need to educate the rising generation in the mechanical and agricultural arts, Lincoln signed the Morrill Bill, which made large grants of federal land available to the states for the creation of land grant colleges.

It was this federal "intervention" that supplied the seed money and foundation for the state colleges and universities of today, which in turn brought higher education for the masses and an agricultural revolution that is still the marvel of the world.

Mr Reagan, who attended Enreka College amid the cornfields of Illinois, is surely aware of this. But when he runs into a problem, especially when he's out on the hustings, his instinctive reaction is to blame it on the federal govern-

Obviously, there are important differences between 1983 and 1974, but there are also parallels. Edward Heath, in his bid for a second term of office, by taking on the miners in a "Who governs Britain?" election theme, did not seem as secure as Mrs Thatcher does now, but he had a lot going for him - a lead in the opinion polls, the unpopularity of the trade unions. Yet he came unstuck.

There were two reasons for this. The first was that the ostensible reason for the election was soon proved to be phoney. His fate was sealed when the Prices and Incomes Board suddenly produced a report which showed that the miners, far from holding society to ransom by excessive pay demands, were in fact falling seriously behind other groups. Mrs Thatcher cannot be sure that her unnecessary election will not be similarly exposed.

Secondly, by hesitating about the date, Edward Heath missed the boat. Expected to call an election in January 1974, when the fuel crisis was at its height, he did not pluck up enough courage to do so until February 3. As a result, he ran into a succession of bad economic news: a record trade deficit; the biggest jump in prices since 1947. With every unfortunate announcement, it became clear that his accidental-proneness had become terminal.

I believe history will show that Mrs Thatcher has also chosen the wrong date. One thing is certain: economically, things cannot get better for her over the next few weeks - they can only get worse.

In the international field, the summits, Williamsburg and Stuttgart, that lie ahead are not going to be the personal triumph that she hopes for. At home, there is always Michael Heseltine waiting to put his foot in it. And every time she declares that economic recovery is just round the corner, the mocking chorus will come back: "Then why choose June?"

Mrs Thatcher had two choices: either to soldier on with no determination to the very end, or to make a dash for it at the best time for her party's interests. If it was opportunism she was after, the best time was undoubtedly immediately after victory in the Falklands war, yet she shrank from that. Her prevarication may prove as fatal as Mr Heath's.

The Labour Party, for its part, will stand and fight single-mindedly. It has no choice. And that concentrates the will wonderfully.

The author is Labour MEP for Greater Manchester, North.

Peter Nichols on the spectacular future planned for an imperial past

Breathing new life into a caesarian dig

Rome
Which way would the emperors vote? No party in Italy's latest general election will make an issue about the views of Rome's ancient rulers on present political problems, but the June vote could indirectly help to decide whether an ambitious project for excavating their imperial forums will be rescued from the inter-governmental limbo where it, too, is sleeping.

The project was announced in January. Its genuinely imperial scale was made clear by Rome's communist mayor, Signor Ugo Vetere, who said that by the year 2000 the whole vast area of the forums would be excavated and added to the Roman forum to create an unrivalled archaeological park.

Over the next 20 years, the heart of ancient Rome would be uncovered from Piazza Venezia to the Colosseum. Part of the plan included demolition of the highway which Mussolini cut across the forums, the Via Dei Fori Imperiali. Doubts were quickly brushed aside that the communists were seeking to stir the glories of the past to make men forget the problems of the present, or that the scheme was some sort of anti-fascist vendetta.

It was all, the mayor explained, part of a new concept of city life in which the freshly revealed imperial splendour would make its contribution to a modern capital about to be transformed in a variety of other ways.

Not everyone was convinced. The scope of the project was in itself a lot to digest. It also raised practical difficulties, such as how to cope with the traffic once the Via Dei Fori Imperiali, one of Rome's busiest thoroughfares, was removed. Some critics consider the cost was unwarranted at a time when monuments throughout the country are crumbling, museum cellars are full of exhibits with nowhere to show them and the staffs of leading galleries are complaining that their



Ancient Rome, and the Mussolini highway that will disappear if the new excavations are authorized

budget does not keep them in paper clips. As the imperial remains under the forums were perfectly safe where they were, why not let them stay while what was already on the surface could be properly cared for?

The great advocate of the project was, and remains, Professor Adriano La Regina, the superintendent for Rome's monuments. His vision is both that of an archaeologist and of a social planner. He does not see why an abundance of archaeological remains should preclude uncovering others, especially as the plan would give Rome unrivalled archaeological preeminence as well as the chance to display the splendours of the past in a modern urban development. He convinced Signor Vincenzo Scotti, Minister for the Cultural Heritage in the last government but one.

The buried markets, libraries and temples built by the emperors passed to the keeping of a new and untired minister, Signor Nicola Vernola. By then, however, the world's press had taken the story in hand. The first international meet-

ing to study the project is due to open here later this month.

Signor Vernola did not share the enthusiasm of his predecessor. On March 29 he announced that the project was at the moment no more than wishful thinking. Existing legislation did not provide financial cover for anything more than some modest test digs and a great deal more deliberation would be required before there could be talk of tearing up the road.

Opponents of the scheme were jubilant. The best its shattered supporters could manage was to argue that nothing had really changed and that the money had never been expected to come from existing budgets. In a sense they were correct. The minister was on solid legal ground when he said that the legislators had not envisaged this project when they had approved current expenditure of 180,000 million lire (£80m) for the defence of Rome's monuments. In fact, the law permitting this expenditure does not talk of the forums project as such: it

refers only to comparatively minor preliminary studies. Signor Vernola rejected accusations that his decision was taken on political grounds in order to avoid allowing so attractive a project to be launched by a left-wing administration.

Those who argued that nothing had changed overlooked, perhaps purposely, the vital point. There is considerable difference between a project on this scale which has the backing of the incumbent minister and the same project which does not. Moreover, when Signor Vernola was asked how he thought Rome should develop, he replied that that was a question for the people of Rome.

Now the government has fallen. Opponents of the forums project will no doubt hope that Signor Vernola will be reconfirmed as Minister for the Cultural Heritage after the election. His supporters will no doubt hope that he does so well personally in Bari, where he was formerly mayor, that he will be able to insist on a more important post.

All fees can be paid by credit card, but apart from that touch of Americanism, the ambience is grimly utilitarian.

The 16 shooting bays are separated from the reception room by a sound proof glass partition, but the long tables where members eat their packed lunches, clean their weapons and chat are bare and very functional. The plastic upholstery on chairs is tattered.

There is a saying that violence is as American as apple pie. Gun-control advocates argue that fewer guns should mean fewer killings, but statistics are inconclusive. Strong penalties for illegal handguns seem to be a deterrent in Massachusetts, for example, where gun murders fell by 35 per cent after one-year prison terms became mandatory for carrying an unlicensed gun.

There were nearly 11,000 handgun deaths in the US in 1980, the latest figure available, and that is more than half of all homicides.

There is another saying, that violence breeds violence, and police records across the country indicate that citizens are beginning to kill burglars. In one recent year, New Yorkers fired shot 15 intruders. In Dallas, the number was 19 and in Houston, residents shot and killed 25 intruders. One report says that in Miami, crime victims shot and killed twice as many suspects as police did.

Mr Preiser heads a committee which awards a \$500 prize to anyone who defends himself against an intruder, and the most recent recipients have been housewives, one of them a septuagenarian. "Once you encourage retaliation by victims, crime decreases," Mr Preiser said.

Violent crime at present is on the increase in America. Whether it will continue to rise now that many Americans now believe it is OK to shoot the bad guys remains to be seen.

Adrianne Blue

Downtown, where the caring nurse may be first to draw



Shot full of holes: a real life practice target is a New York gun club

Nearly 10,000 people applied for handgun licences in New York City last year - more than twice the number who applied before a tougher handgun law went into effect in August, 1980.

Only those who have applied to carry guns, as opposed to keeping them at home, or in the office or using them at a gun range, will be screened carefully.

In New York, as in many other US cities, it is easy to get a pistol licence. Edward Koch, New York's Mayor, said: "Any person who wants a handgun who doesn't have a criminal record or a mental illness history can get a gun to keep in their home or business without establishing need." By law, any New York resident over the age of 18 can obtain such a licence simply by applying for it.

Only 30 per cent of applications to carry handguns are approved, however. Documentation is required showing "a special need" such as evidence that the applicant has to carry large amounts of cash, usually for business.

New York
High noon in Manhattan. The two pistols lay on the table beside a liverwurst sandwich and a neatly quartered tomato. The pistols, a Colt .38 Detective Special and a Ruger 357 Magnum, belonged to John Blau, 49, a social worker. Blau, who was cleaning the gleaming pistols, had just spent two hours and \$40 (about £28) testing them at the West Side Rifle and Pistol Range, where more and more New Yorkers, many of them soft-spoken and middle-class - and 15 per cent of them female - can practise shooting seven days a week.

"Nice people, responsible people, don't use the privilege of owning a gun against innocent people," Mr Blau said. "The person who kills with a gun will kill with a baseball bat or a knife. The gun-club member uses his gun only for defence."

"It's a sport," Joseph Carroll said, interrupting. The liverwurst sandwich was his. Carroll, 64, a retired civil servant, owns eight rifles and five handguns, including "the Cadillac of the line," a Colt Gold Cup .45. "The difference between a man and a boy," he said, "is the size of his gun."

On the firing range, a nurse, wearing protective glasses and ear muffs, aimed her pistol at the chest of a cardboard man. There is a choice of targets at West Side, the classic bull's eye and the larger, more popular silhouette of a menacing-looking man with a gun. Each time Arlene Maniscalco, 33, squeezed the trigger, the pistol bucked slightly, but the bullet found the heart.

"I love life," Miss Maniscalco said. "I'm not going to have myself sacrificed because of someone else's whim."

Miss Maniscalco said that of six close friends who were at nursing college together, four have been raped and two brutally beaten by strangers. "I don't want to become a statistic," she added. "If I thought my life was in danger, I'd kill."



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ENEMIES OF LIBERTY

In his Hamlyn lecture on Friday, Lord Hailsham endorsed a statement by ex-President Jimmy Carter that "the single purpose pressure group" has become the greatest enemy of individual liberty, and made two cogent points. He did not suggest that such groups - be they CND, anti-vivisection, women's or animal liberation fronts, or any other - should be made illegal. The point he was making was a moral not a legal one, based on the moral responsibility of every group and individual in a democracy not to pursue even lawful objectives too far. Nor did he suggest that one should differentiate between pressure groups with desirable and undesirable objectives.

Within the ambit of lawful protest any pressure group - even the National Front, for example - has as much right to be accommodated as CND, or the People's March for Jobs, for that matter. Political pressure groups in their rhetoric show different degrees of respect towards the principle of legal protest in a parliamentary democracy. But any group's lack of respect for parliamentary discipline and freedom is not sufficient grounds for depriving that group of the opportunity to exploit existing freedoms, while they last. It just imposes on a liberal society the obligation to see that it defends its rights fiercely when they are threatened, and to overcome the distasteful paradox that the defence of liberalism often involves some reduction in freedoms.

The clash of argument between the major parties in a general election may seem on the surface to have reduced this point to a minor aspect of our procedures. That is not the case. We have only to listen to Mr Arthur Scargill to realize that the philosophy of pursuing sectional

interest without restraint is a sadly dominant characteristic of political debate.

Mr Scargill, speaking both as a leader of the miners' union and as a major financial contributor to the Labour Party's election campaign, has announced that he would like a Conservative victory in the polls to the triumph of the Nazis in Germany - to be resisted thereafter by any means available. So much for Mr Scargill's belief in a responsible democracy.

Moreover the planners of CND are concocting a whole range of obstructive, possibly illegal, and certainly discriminatory tactics with which to pursue their campaign. For instance, they seek to encourage secondary action against the firm Tarmac which is carrying out contract work at Greenham Common. There is nothing more arrogant than the pressure group which believes that it is entitled to use any means to achieve its end. That has been the language and practice of zealous thought throughout the ages. It is zealotry and intolerance of that kind which ought to have been rendered unnecessary by the tradition of a parliamentary democracy.

The posturing of these pressure groups reveals one or all of three possibilities. First it is possible that society's sense of responsibility in which citizens work together at the self-discipline of parliamentary democracy has become eroded through self-indulgence and a general lack of awareness that liberties cannot ever be taken for granted. That is, in any case, most likely in a society lulled by 38 years of peace, and the softening influence of a short political memory.

Secondly there is the possibility that pressure groups, while founded on a perfectly legitimate quest to achieve a particular social or political objective, tend

to lose a sense of proportion and become blinded by the objectives. That can lead to the third possibility which is that they are then taken over by people who care less about the objective than about the fact that a liberal democracy can, if it is careless, be destroyed from within.

That destruction can be achieved by the pursuit of single issue objectives with methods which obstruct or disregard the natural workings of a political system that is quicker to act for the general good than to respond to particular grievances.

All governments, and not just Socialist ones, have to weigh priorities. As Lord Hailsham said: "All responsible governments, Socialist or otherwise, are compelled to formulate policies at any one time by making hard choices between different courses of otherwise desirable action, rendered incompatible with one another by limitation of available means or available time."

In that context it does not matter what a pressure group is pressing for. Apart from questioning the inherent desirability of any pressure group's objective, its members should ask themselves two further questions. First do they propose to remain within the law, and within the spirit of the conventions which have framed our democracy over the years, and which most citizens still find acceptable? We know Mr Scargill's answer to that.

Secondly, can they justify their own particular objective in comparison with other legitimate needs and aims of other members of society who may not have joined their particular lobby? The value and strength of our system of government stand well in comparison to almost all others in the world. It will endure only so long as it is founded on self-discipline and mutual tolerance.

FRIENDS BEYOND THE NEED

The Israeli-Lebanese agreement is to be welcomed for two reasons. First, it shows again, as did Camp David, what can be achieved when the United States manages to persuade an Arab state to sit down with Israel and negotiate. Secondly, it has given the fragile Lebanese government the confidence to go out and argue its case with other Arab governments. It deserves all the support it needs. After all, nobody can wish for a return to the bloodshed of either the Lebanese civil war, or of last year's Israeli invasion.

Whatever the political movement achieved by that invasion, however, does not entitle the Begin government or its apologists in the West to re-write the record by claiming that Israeli actions in Beirut were "justified and distorted by the Western media". That just will not wash.

Nobody thanks the messenger who brings bad news. There could have been no good news last year in the daily spectacle of Israeli planes and guns seeking out terrorist targets and, in the process, killing thousands of women and children. War is an unpleasant business, initially rendered tolerable nowadays by the plasticity with which violence is habitually coated on television screens.

In Beirut last summer there was obviously some stage management of television films and some newspaper reporting. That is an inevitable casualty of war in any circumstances, and the anarchic and chaotic conditions of Beirut would only have accentuated it. But to suggest that it was Israel which was a greater victim than the thousands of innocents who died is to reveal, on the part of the spokesmen in Jerusalem and their apologists in the West, a reluctance to take criticism and an inability to be fully aware of the consequences of one's actions - let alone to accept responsibility for them - which is truly alarming.

At a recent gathering in London organised by the Insti-

tute of Jewish Affairs it was clear that many in the audience seemed to be unaware that the Hebrew press in Israel had been much more critical of Israeli military operations than had the British press. Not only unaware, but unwilling to be aware. Yet the crowd was very ready with its criticism of Western correspondents - particularly our own Middle East correspondent - while showing a woeful capacity for invention and exaggeration. Those were the very faults which the critics were trying to lay at the feet of correspondents who it was implied were intimidated, greedy for fame, sensationalist, potentially anti-semitic, and lazy.

How many times had any of these omniscient armchair critics risked his life to cross town with his despatch for the day? For that has been the daily reality in Beirut for many years now; but perhaps, unlike the correspondents whom they criticize, the members of the IJA symposium had not themselves been to Beirut to find that out.

In Beirut there is a permanent atmosphere of fear. There are no press offices or communiques. There is none of the apparatus of easy journalism. There is indeed intimidation. One journalist is known to have been shot by Palestinian terrorists. Another, last year - a French television cameraman seeking to provide actual film of the effects of an Israeli bombing - was decapitated by bombers on their second run. No terrorist he; but no doubt his critics would accuse him of bias in seeking to film what he did. A tragic bias in his case, in favour of getting too close to the truth.

The brutality of the Beirut war and the subsequently prolonged involvement in Lebanon are obviously shocks for Israeli society and for all those Jews who have a deep, abiding and necessary emotional involvement with the fate of the Jewish state. Most previous wars have been short and sharp. They have usually been fought out in the

antiseptic arena of the desert, or in sparsely populated territory in the Jordan valley. Now these supporters have had to come to terms with a scale of civilian casualties vastly exceeding the numbers of Israeli military casualties.

The Begin government's policies have tested to its limits the principle of "our country right or wrong" which has bound most Jewish opinion behind Israel in previous emergencies. The country has always lived in the glare of publicity and always will. That may inhibit an Israeli government in its actions to a much greater degree than it would Israel's neighbours. To judge by its reaction to Western criticism Jerusalem frets at such inhibitions. At other times, however, certainly in terms of the moral and material support it receives, Israel profits from living so much in the public eye of Western society. There are penalties as well as prizes in celebrity status.

Israeli society is healthily aware of its differences. The country is loud with argument, as it was last year, for the first time during an actual war. Mr Begin thrives on controversy, but his supporters overseas seem less sure of themselves. They are more sensitive to what they see as a collective slur each time the actions of the Begin government are criticised.

That is only to be expected among expatriates of all kinds, who have an understandable over-sensitivity when a minority falls under the shadow of critical majority opinion. But such a minority should not seek to deflect the criticism by finding wholly implausible causes for it which do justice to neither party. In London the British apologists for Palestinian behaviour often suffer the same inability to absorb criticism as those for whom they carry the flag. Not surprisingly with friends like these, both sides of this argument attract more enemies than they deserve, and certainly more than they need.

concluded in the freely negotiated tripartite talks conducted by the Israeli and Lebanese delegations with American participation and all but signed some three weeks before Mr Shultz embarked on his mission.

This had been achieved despite frequently expressed impatience and scepticism largely as a result of undramatic, patient Israeli-Lebanese negotiation *deus ex machina* of "American pressure".

That is the real lesson King Hussein, the PLO and the Syrian leaders should seriously consider.

For once, the European Community leaders, and especially the Foreign Secretary could do something positive in the Middle East by impressing the significance of this lesson on their friends in the region; and who better to carry the message than a return trip by the Minister of

State, to Amman, Damascus and to the PLO in Tunis. Yours faithfully, JON KIMCHE, Camilla Lacey Lodge, Westbury, Dorset, Surrey.

Inanimate illiteracy

From Mr J. Dyson Taylor
Sir, It is possible that inanimate objects can also be affected by "morphic resonance"? ("Spectrum" May 6). If so, could it be that the ever-rising near-illiteracy, reported in teenagers leaving school, is the cause of the printing machines producing newspapers making ever more spelling mistakes? Yours faithfully, J. DYSON TAYLOR, Hausstauff 7/B, Kitzbühel, Austria.

Nuclear arms in Nato context

From Mr A. L. King-Harman

Sir, With the election imminent the arguments put forward by Mr Anthony Verrier (May 10) need rebuttal. It simply is not true that phasing out British nuclear weapons would leave our relations with Nato unimpaired. Official Nato support for the nuclear forces of Britain and France is contained in the Ottawa Declaration of 1974 and has remained constant ever since.

In national terms neither country has ever been prepared to leave the deterrent capability of the West, and thus its security, totally in the hands of the United States, nor for that matter the strategic and political decisions associated with nuclear weapons. European backing for the British and French nuclear forces is based largely on the same considerations.

Political considerations apart, it makes little military sense to phase out the European component of the deterrent when over 1,000 megaton warheads of the Soviet SS20 force are targeted on military and civilian centres in Western Europe.

The two forces concerned are in no way militarily insignificant, as Soviet efforts to have them included in the current arms control negotiations show; they certainly add substantially to the deterrent capabilities of the West in political terms and must be additional restraining factors should the USSR ever contemplate resorting to force to resolve its differences with the West. As to the UK force itself, it and its command and control system are virtually invulnerable to a Soviet first strike and are designed specifically for a retaliatory strike. Phasing out would be unlikely to result in larger conventional forces, where the need is manpower as much as equipment; the UK nuclear force has only taken from two per cent to seven per cent of the defence budget over the years and it would seem unlikely that the sums saved would be used for equipment, which already takes 46 per cent of the defence budget, a much higher percentage than in almost every other Nato country.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.
A. L. KING-HARMAN, Ouse Manor, Sharnbrook, Bedfordshire, MK44 0JL.

From Mr Jeremy Wilde

Sir, I had always thought that the principal advantage of multilateral nuclear disarmament was the supposed bargaining power derived from the possession of arms of one's own to reduce, in exchange for reduction by the opposition.

Mr Andropov's latest proposal seems to make this possible, but the British and French multilateralists will not cooperate. Are they not then just another breed of unilateralists? Yours disarmingly, JEREMY WILDE, 10 Weysprings, Haslemere, Surrey, May 5.

Tenants' claims

From Lord Campbell of Alloway, QC
Sir, Under the headline "Housing courts urged by surveyors to speed tenants' claims" your property correspondent (May 2) reported that ministerial consideration was being given to a scheme submitted by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors for the setting up of special courts "in parallel with the existing county courts" to speed tenants' claims in all housing matters. Apart from the expense, the statutory implementation of any such scheme is no simple affair; that is if these courts are to have exclusive jurisdiction in all housing matters.

Questions arise as to whether the proposed power of enforcement at the hands of part time members of the tribunal should extend to commitment; as to rules of procedure; as to appellate procedures; and as to the availability of legal aid. As it is wholly impracticable to extend the law to deal with specific problems, should the need arise, it is not understood why the county court should not retain its jurisdiction in accordance with current procedures.

A case in point arose during the committee stage of the Housing and Building Control Bill [now not to proceed] in connection with the resolution of disputes between councils and their tenants in connection with transfers of accommodation when marital or extra marital relations of those in possession ended, and also in connection with repairs and improvements. It became apparent that consideration would be given to issuing regulations to deal with such problems. Surely the county court is the appropriate forum for the resolution of this type of dispute? I am, Sir, Your obedient servant, CAMPBELL OF ALLOWAY, Temple, EC4.

Hedge against loss

From Mr D. H. Harris
Sir, The traditional craft of hedgelaying is alive and well on the Oxford Canal at Claydon and Cropredy, where the fruits of winter maintenance work by the British Waterways Board enrich the eye and surrounding landscape.

It would be an even better countryside if local authorities and much of the farming community laid their ripplers to rest and laid their hedges in the traditional way of their forefathers and lengthenings of the Oxford Canal. Yours faithfully, DAVID HARRIS, Narrow Boat Gongoozler, The Marina, Penny Compton, Warwickshire.

Paying for injuries caused in the air

From Mr Peter Martin

Sir, Your third leader (May 11) summarised admirably the present unsatisfactory state of the law relating to compensation for personal injury or death caused during international carriage by air.

Of course the present limit of £11,799 is too low. Of course no victim of accident should have to discharge a burden of proof of such astonishing strictness as the Court of Appeal, in *Goldman v Thai Airways International Ltd*, has decided he must if he is to be adequately compensated beyond that limit. Of course, in the absence of new and complete international agreement special contracts for a higher limit will help. But the wider issue seems never fully to be discussed.

Would it not be wiser, given the existence of limits of which by now most passengers are or ought to be aware, for them to be encouraged to take out adequate accident insurance to meet the risks for themselves or their families of disability or death? Such cover is cheap and readily available. This heretical view, which raises complex issues of social policy, may be unpopular but it is a practical basis - at least on an interim basis.

IATA might just consider encouraging airlines to add automatic accident insurance as part of the ticket package. At the same time, it is difficult for existing limits to be increased without international

agreement and, in particular, the agreement of the United States, which is at present sadly not available.

Although there are some who say that the decision in *Goldman v Thai Airways International Ltd* was that of a hard case making bad law, the other view is that it is highly desirable that the courts should give rigid, strict interpretations to the wording of the Warsaw Convention because, as a result, change is much more likely than if the issues are judged by judges, as they frequently are in the United States in these cases, demonstrating their disapproval of the system by findings not justified by the language.

As for your Thatcherite exhortation to buy British, it is fair to the airlines of many other states to say that the British adoption of special contracts is not unique. The difficulty for the passenger is finding out which airlines do and which don't have special contracts.

The abandonment of limits altogether would probably be the ideal special contract.

Underlying all this is the unreasoning fear of airlines that they will have to meet very much higher insurance costs than they do at present if they abandon limits or limits are abandoned for them.

Yours truly, PETER MARTIN, The Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1, May 13.

BBC standards and popular demand

From Professor Alan Thompson

Sir, The debate aroused by Howard Davies's question, "Do we really need the BBC?" (feature, April 26) should not be allowed to develop solely into a "public enterprise" versus "market forces" argument. The case for the BBC is in my view a separate issue from the "privatisation" debate. Furthermore, it would be damaging if the bipartisan support for the BBC given by all governments since 1927 (in spite of occasional confrontations over issues such as the General Strike and Suez) should be undermined.

I do not challenge Mr Davies's right to query the BBC's programme budget. Financial scrutiny over any aspect of public spending, whether it be education, the social services, defence or the arts, is a highly proper activity for the public and politicians alike and there is no reason why media activities should be exempt. It must, however, be applied with some knowledge of the special nature of what is involved.

The BBC is fully aware of its responsibilities to secure mass audiences to justify the licence fee. This is not, however, to accept the argument that the costs of different types of programme should be directly related to audience appeal. The overwhelming achievement of the BBC, and subsequently the IBA, has been to respond to market forces in the wider context of cultural balance and development. It has aimed to improve standards and the level of public appreciation - a difficult task to reconcile with broadly giving people what they want.

It has taken nearly 50 years to do this, but it is a fragile achievement and could be easily swept away by a total surrender to "popular" taste. Priggishness as it may sound, cultural enhancement is a worthy objective for a nation to pursue and the BBC's success is the subject of world-wide recognition and admiration.

It is significant that one of the strongest letters supporting the BBC has come from Michigan (May 5). I have taken part in broadcasting

seminars in Europe and America and have been so embarrassed by the praise heaped on the BBC that (as becomes an academic) I have had to cast around for points to criticize. Even the French admit that our broadcasting system is better than theirs.

Apart from the measurable benefits such as exports, the BBC remains an important flagship of British prestige and influence in the world. My own experience, which includes wartime service with propaganda broadcasting as well as peacetime involvement with the BBC, convinces me that we have an unrivalled capacity in this field.

As a projection of our national identity and purpose, the BBC operates to our considerable advantage in the world today. We have been quick to respond to the need for national self-expression in times of crisis. Why then should we attempt to undermine an organization devoted to such purposes in these times? Furthermore, the international reputation of the BBC is, in my view, inseparable from its domestic standards and purposes.

Some of these aspects are, as Mr Davies points out, difficult to measure. It is one thing, however, to point out that we must learn to measure the costs and benefits of public enterprise much more precisely: it is quite another to say that what cannot be measured is unimportant. This is one of the few points on which Adam Smith and Karl Marx would agree.

To sum up: what I am not arguing is that market forces are irrelevant or that cable television should be stopped or that broadcasting should be immune from public accountability. I am arguing that the BBC should stay in the business of mixing its output, with some element of cultural uplift, and that our overall national broadcasting system should be so constructed as to make this possible.

Yours faithfully, ALAN THOMPSON, 11 Upper Gray Street, Edinburgh.

Crisis in prisons

From Dr Stephen Shaw

Sir, It is easy to sympathise with the Home Secretary in his article entitled "Prisons: no easy way out" (May 5). Defeated by the judiciary, buffeted by many in his own party, and conspicuously lacking the support of the Prime Minister, Mr Whitelaw may well feel that he has made the best of an impossible task.

It would be churlish to deny that there has been a substantial shift from the practice of excessive secrecy which had hitherto characterised the prison department in its dealings with the media; but, generally, has been used highly selectively.

Where greater public awareness of the squalid state of our local prisons can be used to support the demand for more resources it has been exploited to the full. But in areas where the Home Office is less obviously the "victim" - for example, the continuing controversy over the standards of health care provided by the prison medical service - openness has been notably absent.

The "law and order" services have been well protected from the general restrictions on Government spending. Police pay and recruitment have rocketed and in the prisons we have embarked upon the largest building programme this century. But this achievement is double-edged.

The prisons we are building are too large, too expensive, sited in the wrong areas and, according to the recent report of the independent prison inspectorate, will make little or no impression upon overcrowding. There is mounting evidence to suggest that building more prisons and reducing the prison population are mutually exclusive objectives.

Thieves abroad

From Mr J. W. Dickson

Sir, The recent correspondence on pickpockets reminds me of an anecdote concerning my grandfather, whose capacious waistcoat was adorned by a watch-chain. Having had one attempt made upon his pocket, he sewed into it a

number of fish hooks, and when the next thief took the bait he could not escape being taken straight to the police station.

Yours faithfully, J. W. DICKSON, Stow House, Westerfield, Ipswich, Suffolk.

Taking care of Parish records

From Mr W. D. Pattinson

Sir, Two implications of Mr Duncan Harrington's challenging article of May 7, "Ensuring the future of parish records", require some riposte if the motives of parish clergy and Parochial Church Councils are not to be unfairly misconstrued in certain respects.

First, in those cases where parishes have not deposited their records in diocesan record offices this is because they have satisfied the diocesan authorities that they are in a position to comply with the statutory provisions as to care laid down in the Parochial Registers and Records Measure 1978. It is not, as Mr Harrington seems to imply, because they are not "looked upon as part of our national heritage".

Secondly, although there cannot any longer be many parishes which receive "a not insignificant income from searches in their earlier records", those which do have such an income must be regarded as amply justified in recouping through search fees at least part of the cost of maintaining and supervising those records and thereby protecting them against deterioration, theft and careless use.

Having made these points, however, I support and welcome the main drift of Mr Harrington's article, namely, that the principal aim of the measure is to exert strong pressure on any parishes which have not deposited their records, and that in this it has largely, if not yet, entirely succeeded.

Yours sincerely, W. D. PATTINSON, General Secretary, The General Synod of The Church of England, Church House, Dean's Yard, SW1, May 10.

Order of precedence

From Mrs K. N. M. Kross

Sir, I'm sure there are many of us who will miss the voice of George Thomas calling "Order, order" with all the gentleness, but firm discipline, of a father over unruly children.

Would it be within the realms of possibility that the BBC could keep his familiar voice as the introduction to *Today in Parliament*? Yours faithfully, K. N. M. KROSS, 27 Braemar Avenue, Old Moulsham, Chelmsford, Essex, May 12.

Holding the line

From Mr Robert Gower

Sir, Holidaying in Cumbria earlier this month, my wife and I decided to take a return rail trip on the Settle and Carlisle line. Although it was an elating experience, we were both saddened by what we encountered.

On this route, recently described by British Rail itself as "the most spectacular main line in England", there are now two local trains daily in each direction. Freight traffic is being diverted to other lines. Consequently, the Settle and Carlisle is doomed to closure, the low receipts being conveniently overshadowed by the high maintenance cost of a line which represents the apex of Victorian railway engineering.

I am aware that a preservation organisation has been formed; their task is laudable, but forbidding. Cannot the line be given over to the care of the National Trust now, whilst it is still in working order?

Future generations should not only have the opportunity of enjoying train travel on a route with unrivalled views of the Pennines, but should be given the chance to appreciate at first hand the incredible achievement of its construction. Yours faithfully, ROBERT GOWER, Precentor, Radley College, Oxfordshire, April 29.

Financial constraint

From Mr S. D. Patel

Sir, Ref Miss Ruth Ellacott (aged 8) and her difficulty getting her new £1 coin in the money box. I would like to make an observation that as a sub-postmaster of a village post office I received an initial supply of £500 in £1 coins. The demand for the same was so heavy that I ran out of stock in a couple of days.

Further, a very interesting aspect of this is that, since the launch of the new £1 coins almost a month ago, not a single £1 coin has returned to me over the counter as tender for payment.

This is also the view of other financial institutions or am I thus to conclude that these coins, despite their shortcomings, have proved to be so popular and so quickly? I wonder!

Yours sincerely, S. D. PATEL, St Mary Cray TSO, 7 Mountfield Way, Orpington, Kent, May 12.

From Colonel (ret'd) F. M. S. Winter
Sir, I went into a London clearing bank in Kensington on Thursday, May 5, and asked for 10 £1 coins and 10 £1 notes. There weren't any £1 coins.

Sincerely, FREDERICK WINTER, Venters Barn, Puttenham, Guildford, Surrey, May 11.

Middle East lessons

From Mr Jon Kimche

Sir, Your thoughtful editorial comment (May 9) on the Shultz shuttle and your Defence Correspondent's intriguingly informative account of the "Middle East Jigsaw" in the same issue, must have been welcome to all concerned for the future well-being of the region. (It is too much at this stage to aspire to peace and goodwill.)

However, there was a potentially dangerous inbuilt assumption in both articles which could lead to erroneous conclusions in Damascus, Amman and by the PLO leadership. Mr Shultz went out of his way in his parting statement to emphasise the limited character of his intervention, "the icing on the cake" he termed it. For 95 per cent of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement had been

A SPECIAL REPORT

Factory Automation

In less than 10 years, the dream of an unmanned automatic factory freeing workers from the drudgery created by the industrial revolution has become a practical proposition.

Largely as the result of the microprocessor revolution, which has provided the new breed of technocrats with compact, versatile and, above all, cheap and powerful computer power, it is now possible to eliminate human hands from a wide variety of manufacturing and assembly operations in industry.

While the silicon chip may have had enormous impact upon communications and in commercial sectors like banking and insurance, arguably its most far reaching implication is in the factory. Little, if any, serious consideration has yet been given to the social upheaval that the first unmanned factory could create.

There is now a growing and authoritative bank of evidence that the new technologies can provide a company with the means to make a massive cut in production costs and at the same time give a blinding promise of superior and never-faltering quality. Even without total automation, manufacturers are realising that big cuts in manning and costs can be made by harnessing the power of computers.

The automatic factory - and it could become a widespread reality within five years - would be based on a computer-controlled system feeding customers' orders directly to the start of the manufacturing process. Raw materials and parts would be ordered automatically from the stores and delivered by driverless trucks to be picked up by robots.

The operation would continue with more robots feeding conveyors, transferring parts from one station to the next, servicing computer-controlled machine tools and carrying out inspection and monitoring procedures - all with unwavering precision - and finally packaging the goods and preparing them for despatch.

Most of these elements that will combine to produce the automatic factory already exist. The next, and, for the perpetrator, most lucrative step is the creation of the systems technology to bring them together.

Throughout the industrial world, advanced manufacturing

The unmanned factory could be a reality within five years, but has enough thought been given to the people it will inevitably replace?

Edward Townsend reports

systems are the focus of much governmental attention. Politicians, more than industrialists, have realised during the present deep recession that the nation that enters the next decade with the most efficient and widespread adaptation of the new technologies will be economically the most powerful.

Thanks to companies like General Electric and IBM of the United States and Fujitsu Fanuc of Japan, computer numerically controlled (CNC) machine tools have revolutionised manufacturing in recent years. Relatively inexpensive control systems have been developed for a wide range of machinery ranging from the humble lathe to highly sophisticated machining centres, the latter capable of working automatically on all sides of a complex component by boring, drilling, cutting and shaping.

And while the British machine tool industry once lagged far behind the Japanese, American

Catching up with the competition

and Germans in developing new equipment, the successful remnants are now catching up with the competition and there is probably little significant difference between the machine tools on offer. Only a marked resistance on the part of much of British manufacturing to utilize advanced technology keeps the country behind the times.

Not that this is the fault of the present Government or its agencies: millions of pounds of assistance are available to encourage companies to invest in the factory of the future, yet there has been little enthusiasm

from the rank and file of industry.

Farsighted machine tool companies like The 600 Group have spotted the long term advantages of advanced manufacturing systems and big, highly exposed, giants like Ford and BL have spent huge sums on robotics. Cars like the Ford Sierra and the BL Maestro are welded and painted almost without any human intervention.

But the widespread breakthrough at the small, batch production engineering workshop has yet to occur. Excuses include lack of confidence, poor support from the banks, high interest rates, low return on investment, severely depressed markets. The same could be said of other western countries - and many of them are showing Britain the way.

The Department of Industry has allocations of money to assist in the purchase of robots, the installation of flexible manufacturing systems (FMS) and, as part of the package announced in this year's Budget, advanced machine tools under the renewed £100m Small Engineering Firms Investment Scheme (SEFIS).

But in total, the Government appears to be giving industry more stimulants than it wants, or can cope with. Full order books, it seems, are a more potent force.

As a result, the UK will certainly follow rather than lead the United States and Japan in the use of new manufacturing technology, and probably much of Europe as well. Last year, American industry invested an estimated \$26,000m on factory automation systems and services and according to at least one forecast the figure could rise to \$100,000m a year within the next 10 years.

Much is being done in the

Showing what it can do: at the push of a button, a robot puts the last letter of welcome in place at ASEA'S factory at Milton Keynes

UK to stimulate interest and investment in advanced systems by the Government's British Technology Group which is concentrating its support on robotics, FMS and computer-aided manufacture. It believes that FMS, in which the Vickers-owned Kearney and Trecker Marwin (KTM) has been a leading light in the UK, will have a crucial impact on the future of manufacturing.

FMS is the nearest thing yet to the automatic factory. It means the linking of machines into groups, served by robots or computer-controlled equipment, to enable products to be machined or assembled in small batches at a cost equivalent to that associated normally with mass production.

Crucial to the concept of automation in manufacturing is the robot - not simply the

Machines that will make the decisions

moving arm that picks up and places components but the increasingly sophisticated "seeing" and even "smelling" machine that replaces the human worker. And in the forefront of such developments is the BTG-owned British Robotic Systems (BSRL) described as being at the leading edge of technology in the field of control and visual systems for robots.

Robots equipped with vision sensors have immense implications for productivity and quality and, because of their additional intelligence, will be able to make decisions ranging, according to BSRL, from assessing the quality of a surgical blade to the shape of a fancy cake.

But as the march towards greater automation quickens, the almost total lack of consideration being given to the people that will be displaced becomes increasingly evident.

"Automate or liquidate" may be a fine rallying call from the Department of Industry but it does little to assess the social effects. Societies would do well to ponder the recent prediction from America that by the turn of the century factory robots will be doing what seven million human workers do now.



FLEXIBLE MANUFACTURING

When even the experts are not sure

As recently as two years ago few people in industry or government had heard of "flexible manufacturing systems". Now the phrase has become something of a buzzword in the field of technology and factory automation.

The Government has adopted a £60m scheme to provide grants to help companies install flexible manufacturing systems. The world's first flexible manufacturing systems conference was held in Brighton last October, and the second, an even bigger event, is scheduled to take place at London's Hilton International Hotel this autumn, with delegates attending from all the leading industrialized countries. The subject even boasts its own magazine and newsletter.

The irony is that defining exactly what is meant by flexible manufacturing systems is something even the experts find difficult. They know what it is when they see it, but putting it into simple words is much harder - and even then not everybody's definitions agree. The Department of Industry acknowledges in its 17-

page guide to companies applying for grants that "a single workable definition of the term is... not possible".

In its specialized sense, the term is generally taken to refer to the application of computerized technology to machine tools employed in a factory production process. The flexibility lies in the ability of the system to control automatically a series of different machines, processes and components, all without human intervention.

It is, says the department in its best attempt at a definition, "a system which combines microelectronics and mechanical engineering to bring economies of scale to batch work". A typical system will have a central on-line computer, controlling the machine tools and other work stations as well as the transfer within the production process of components and tooling. The computer will also monitor and provide information about how the process is working. "This combination of flexibility and overall control", says the department, "makes possible the production of a wide range

of products in small numbers".

The kind of processes which are most suited to flexible manufacturing systems are such things as metal forming, metal cutting, component assembly and product finishing. It could involve one process or several, depending on the size of the company.

For example, a typical flexible system might involve the cutting of several different metal castings. An automated vehicle will pick up the castings, transfer them to a special pallet and move it to the work station where the computerized machinery will recognize what part it is, and automatically select the right tools for the cutting.

"Adaptability is the single most important thing about the flexible manufacturing", says Mr John Hampson, who is helping to organize this year's conference on the subject. "If your company has got mass production, then flexible manufacturing systems are not much help to you. But the vast majority of manufacturers do not have such big volumes. They have a great variety of

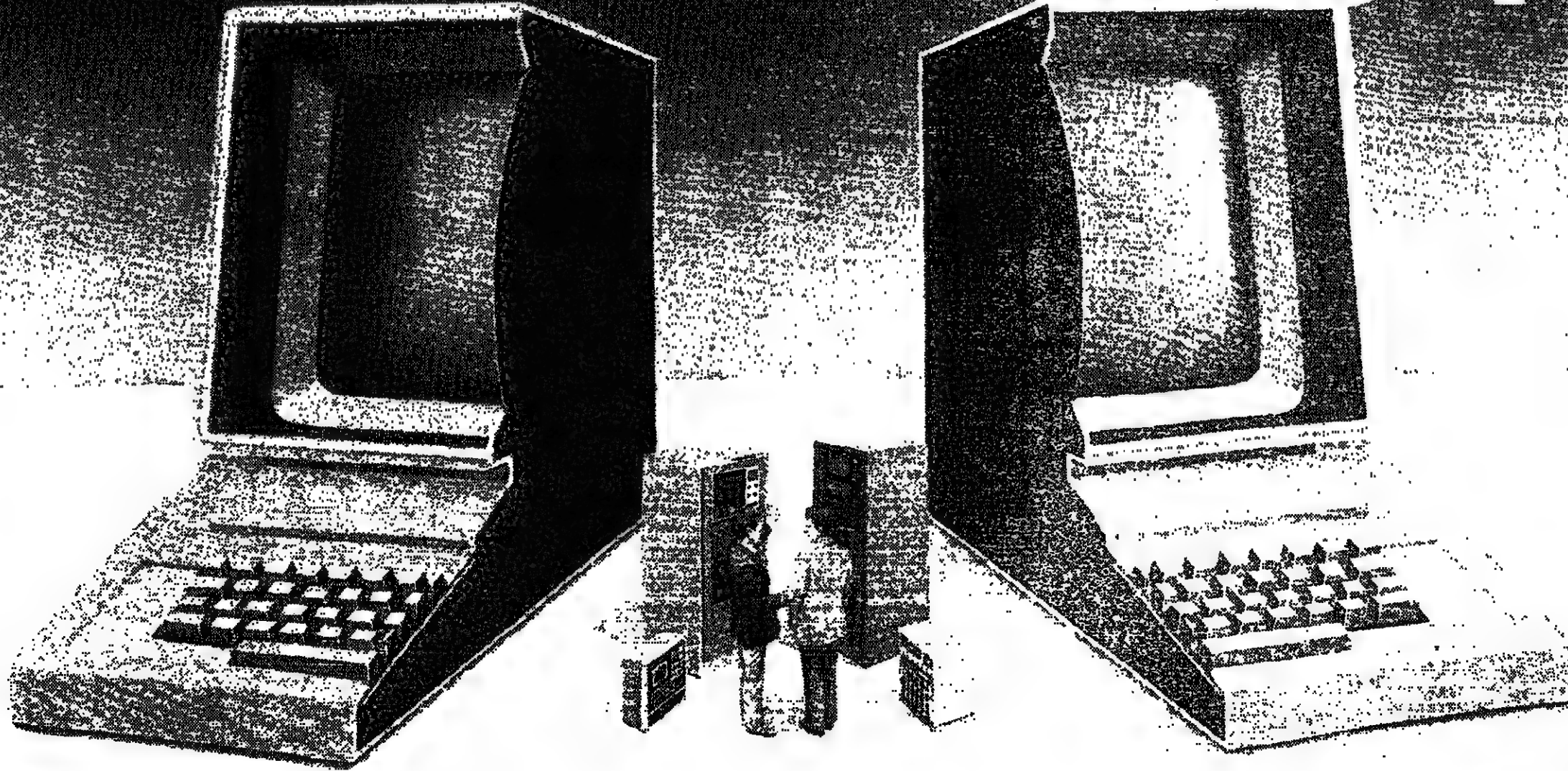
different small products, and flexible manufacturing is designed to help them."

As with other aspects of automation and computerized technology, the Government has decided that British industry needs to keep pace with a development in which - inevitably - the Japanese are widely regarded as holding a lead. So far only a handful of flexible manufacturing systems have been installed in this country. The most publicized application is that of the Normalair-Garrett firm in Crewkerne, Somerset, a defence contractor using a flexible system to help make components for an aircraft bomb release unit. Companies such as Vickers and the 600 Group are interested in manufacturing the systems, but so far the problem is as much one of ignorance among companies as to what is available as of a lack of capital to invest.

The Department of Industry's £60m package was launched last June by Mr Kenneth Baker, the Minister for Information Technology. The re-

continued on page 15

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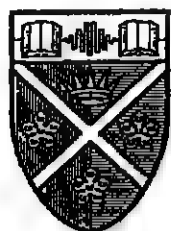
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Heading into the age of 'touch and see' robots

All the publicity surrounding industrial robots should not conceal the fact that in their present primitive state they are still of limited appeal to manufacturers.

Last year's sales of robots in Britain amounted to less than £15m, according to the British Robot Association. The worldwide total was somewhere between £200m and £300m. Such figures show the production of robots to be a minor activity, in financial terms, compared to conventional machine tools and factory equipment.

Nor are the numbers of industrial robots impressive. Their total throughout the world is about 30,000 - one thousandth the number of unskilled factory workers. The British Robot Association Census put the UK figure at 1,152 by the end of 1982; we are fifth in the international league after Japan (13,000), the United States (6,250), West Germany (3,500) and Sweden (1,300), but just ahead of France (950) and Italy (700).

Although managements have sometimes been inhibited from introducing robots by conservatism, laziness and fear of the workers' reaction, they have not been adopted more widely principally because the "first generation robots" now on sale have limited capabilities. They are "blind, deaf, dumb, deaf, one-armed bandits, screwed to the floor", in the words of Peter Davey, coordinator of the Science and Engineering Research Council's robotics programme.

Today's robots can - by definition - be re-programmed to carry out a different series of movements, but they do not have the in-built flexibility of "intelligence" to react to variable conditions by adjusting

their own actions. The next generation, which is under intensive development at dozens of academic and industrial laboratories throughout the world, will have "senses" - normally a video camera to give "sight" or pressure sensors for "touch" - feeding back information about the outside world; the robots' microprocessor brains will adjust their movements accordingly.

Of course the market for second generation robots that can cope with some disorder will be far greater. In assembly, for example, a vision system will enable them to pick parts out of a jumbled heap in a drum, while today's machines have to be fed components in a fixed position with exactly the right orientation.

Car manufacturers are now the biggest users because their production lines include many of the simple, repetitive and slightly hazardous jobs that suit robots so well, and tooling costs can be spread over several models of car by re-programming the machines.

(In West Germany the Volkswagen company has made 940 robots for its own factories).

Spot welding is the most frequent robot application today, followed by arc welding. Other important uses include paint spraying, injection moulding and placing components into machine tools.

Robots may be pneumatically, hydraulically or electrically powered. Hydraulics give the greatest strength - a long-armed robot can move more than 200lb within a working volume of 1,000 cubic feet. Electric power is more economical and accurate, especially in smaller robots and ones that stop regularly between movements, but it may bring an unacceptable risk of sparks in



A robot trolley takes the strain out of carrying engine parts on the assembly line at Fiat's plant in Turin. Right, how film makers saw the robot in 1956.

some applications.

A conventional industrial robot has an arm with three degrees of freedom, to use the jargon of the industry, and a wrist with one to three degrees of freedom. Each joint contains a sensor to tell the microprocessor - the robot's brain - its position and movement.

The microprocessor compares the inputs from the joints (and perhaps also from other machines on the production line) with what its program says is the next desired position, and activates the appropriate motors. The computer is most simply programmed by actually leading the robot through the sequence you want it to follow.

A standard 8-bit microprocessor can cope comfortably

with the control of a first generation industrial robot. But far faster and more powerful chips will be needed to process all the information from the outside sensors built into the machines of the future.

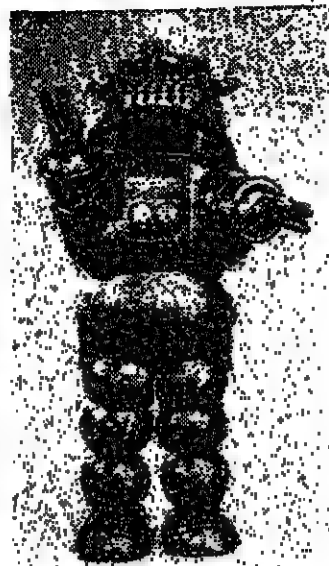
Prototype robot vision systems are emerging from so many laboratories that it is rather invidious to single out any of them. However, British Robotic Systems (a London-based subsidiary of the British Technology Group) claims to be this country's leader in the application of robot vision in working industrial environments. Another small company, Computer Recognition Systems of Wokingham, says it is ahead in the art of image processing.

Touch may be a cheaper

sense to develop. Simple induction coils near the gun of an arc welding robot can detect the proximity of metal and guide the weld. Pressure switches can allow assembly robots to accept differences in the size of components without squeezing the bigger ones out of shape or letting the smaller ones fall through.

However, as the Department of Industry warns in its *Human guide to robots*, "it is easy to get carried away with plans for robots with ever more senses - hearing and speech could be added. The future will belong also to cheaper and simpler machines working on easier tasks."

Clive Cookson
Technology Correspondent



Robots

Britain mounts its counter challenge

Though Japanese manufacturers have no special edge in pure technological development of robots, they have been ahead of the game in working out a multiplicity of applications of current robotic systems. It is one of the reasons for a growing number of links between British companies and those in Japan, either to strengthen a British maker's existing range or to assemble or manufacture completely the Japanese robots under licence in Britain.

It is the biggest challenge facing Britain's indigenous robot makers and how the battle will go is still in the balance. In the earlier part of this year the signs were not too good, with the biggest all-British robot maker, Remek Microelectronics, one of at least two home-grown robot manufacturers, apparently fading into receivership, although with Remek that situation was due to change.

The British Robot Association was also reporting an increasing domination of the British market by foreign suppliers. Last year one in every

four industrial robots installed in Britain came from Japan compared with one in eight during 1981.

British-built robots took only 23 per cent of a market in Britain which had anyway shrunk rather more than 8 per cent compared with 1981. Then 370 robots were installed in Britain but only 339 were last year, although Britain is still fifth in the world robot population league.

British-made robots had accounted for 29 per cent of the 1981 market.

Of Britain's total robot population so far - 1,152 in place at the end of last year - a quarter were built in Britain, with US manufacturers selling in almost as many, the Japanese 16 per cent and the various European manufacturers, including the Swedes and the West Germans, together contributing 37 per cent.

A big importer is ASEA of Sweden, which has a distribution and exhibition centre at Milton Keynes.

The fruits of a number of licensing deals between British and Japanese interests have yet to mature. It means Japanese penetration of the British market - and probably the west European markets with the UK base used as a springboard - will almost certainly grow between now and 1985.

Anglo-Japanese links include those between General Electric Company (GEC) and Hitachi, Lansing and Hitachi, 600 Group and Fanuc, Butters of Coventry with Osaka Transformer Company, and Sykes Group with Daimichi Kiko.

The GEC-Hitachi link is among the more recent deals made between British and Japanese interests. At the turn of the year the two companies signed a licensing agreement for the sale and manufacture of industrial robots in Europe; for the first two years the robots will be Japanese-made although sold under the GEC label but in 1985 GEC plans to be manufacturing in Britain under the licensing arrangement.

GEC is already producing robots of its own, developed and made by its subsidiary, Hall Automation. These include the successful CompArm paint-

spraying robot, which has earned the nickname of the Heineken robot - so small and compact it is said to reach parts other robots cannot reach.

But the Hitachi robot was seen as a crucial and immediate addition to GEC's robot armoury. Electrically driven, it can be fitted with limbs for use in welding, machine servicing and assembly. GEC's main sales target is the European car-manufacturing industry, its efforts now being brought under the umbrella of GEC's Factory Automation Systems Technology (FAST) Division.

The 600 Group has had a longer association with Japanese interests. Its SCAMP (600's computer-aided manufacturing project) flexible-manufacturing system, unveiled at Colchester, Essex, at the end of last year, uses robots manufactured by Japan's Fanuc. Now a fresh step has been taken with a £200,000 agreement to set up a new company, 600 Fanuc Robotics, which plans to build a plant in Colchester to make robots for which Fanuc will supply the control units and motors.

Because SCAMP is operating at the leading edge of flexible manufacturing technology, the efforts of the 600 Group could

be crucial in developing the British challenge both in home and overseas markets.

While Department of Industry funding involvement in SCAMP allied to the Japanese connexion has given rise to some criticisms from all-British robot makers, it has largely been regarded in government as a key step in constructing a credible robot manufacturing industry in Britain.

The Japanese apart, there is also a challenge to Britain's indigenous robot makers by the US, from where many of the technological breakthroughs in robotics have come. Some of the foreign robots used by Ford at Dagenham are those developed by US-based Cincinnati Milacron Simulation, part of the Rediffusion group, is to build and market at Crawley, in West Sussex, a robot system developed by American Robot of Pittsburgh. Production - to start this year - could reach 150 units annually by 1986.

But the most notable example of the way foreign invasion can lead to manufacture in Britain, with all that means for creation of jobs, is at Telford in Shropshire. There Britain's biggest robot-manufacturing project so far, with 120

people turning out robots for both UK and European markets, is the result of technology imported from the US by Unimation, the world's leading manufacturer of industrial robots.

The Telford plant already accounts for by far the biggest slice of UK robot production and it is to be upgraded from being only an assembly plant. Under Unimation's plans, Telford will eventually become a centre of robot research and development, with a new £10m expansion plan now starting. Mr Joseph Engelberger, Unimation's president, believes that Telford will become the largest centre for robot development and manufacture in the EEC.

There is also a fresh wave of entirely British effort in robot-making. A reborn Remek is among those which should be making this new impact on the market this year.

When Remek Microelectronics, based in Milton Keynes, collapsed early this year it seemed to be an example of the sort of small organizations developing in the UK and elsewhere being crushed by the greater marketing power of large companies using foreign technology. Remek's key robot was designed to replace actions performed by the human arm and with an unusually high accuracy to within two-thousandths of an inch.

Now George P. Brown of Luton, Bedfordshire, has taken over the assets of the old Remek from the receiver. Brown's are large-scale industrial automation systems manufacturers and the Remek robots will be turned out at Luton, with the Milton Keynes centre doing some assembly work and robotic design.

Most of the key development staff from the old Remek have been taken on again, including Mr Roger Bidgood, joint managing director of the old Remek and now a director of the new company V. S. Remek. Three weeks after the new company started operations Mr Bidgood was reporting inquiries which could lead to a number of orders within three months. He added: "The recession world-



Automatic spot welding in the car plant.

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مركز الأبحاث

FACTORY AUTOMATION

TOOLS

When you can't beat them, join them

Britain's machine tool industry has been reduced to a flimsy shadow of its former self. When the nation had an empire, names like Alfred Herbert were respected and admired around the globe; today they have been overtaken by the new industrial giants, many of them Japanese.

British names are still respected (although Alfred Herbert has again gone bust), but the world emphasis has changed and the British industry is learning the painful lesson of the marathon runner - that once you are left far behind, it needs a superhuman effort to catch up with the leaders.

Herbert, in its hey-day one of the country's outstanding blue-chip engineering companies, called in the receivers at the beginning of last month with little hope of reducing its ever-mounting debt burden, which had reached £17m.

The industry's authoritative journal, *The Engineer*, said: "Alfred Herbert, one of the leading hopes for the British machine tool industry revival, appears to have become another gravestone marking the industry's continuing decline." It went on to restate the maxim that the industry will not generate sufficient income until it makes the right products.

The sad fact is that instead of leading Britain's manufacturing industry to economic recovery, the machine tool sector is lagging far behind its world competitors in terms of efficiency and competitiveness and is new looking for survival rather than expansion.

The automated factory of the future will require large numbers of sophisticated, computer-controlled machine tools, but only a handful of British companies, such as the 600 Group and Wadkin, are able to supply them. Much of the rest of the industry acts as an importer for foreign-produced wizardry.

The troubles of the industry

are deep-seated and historical. In 1970, sales of UK-manufactured machine tools totalled £455m (at constant 1975 prices) but by 1980 had fallen to £280m.

Because of their own declining fortunes, British engineering companies in the mid-1970s began to cut back drastically on purchases of machine tools, again setting in train the familiar feast-and-famine cycle that has bedevilled machine tool makers for the whole of this century.

The UK producers, however, appeared more ill-equipped than usual to cope with the downturn. Decades of highly conservative, paternalistic management meant that the industry could not react rapidly enough to the two-pronged attack it then faced. From one side came the growing likelihood of recession and the need rapidly to improve competitiveness and product ranges; from the other came the increasing might of the Far Eastern manufacturers.

In 1973, imports accounted for 35 per cent of UK machine tool sales. By 1981 the figure had bounded to 56 per cent, and in the 11 years to 1981, the numbers employed in the UK industry fell from 70,000 to 40,000.

Competition has been particularly aggressive from the cheap, standard machines from

the emerging industries of Taiwan and South Korea, and the high technology, numerically-controlled and computer-controlled equipment from Japan. Meanwhile, as the British Technology Group pointed out at the recent machine tool inquiry by the Commons Select Committee on Trade and Industry, too high a proportion of UK machine tool exports has tended to be low technology machines.

The BTG said that in 1980, imports of NC turning machines increased by 21 per cent and machining centres by 46 per cent, and the country had also become overdependent on imports of DC drive systems for machine tools and on foreign built NC systems.

BTG executives remain sceptical about the ability of the UK industry to survive without considerable continuing injections of public funds into new aid schemes. In a memorandum to the Select Committee, they said: "For both national security and economic reasons it is essential to have in the UK a healthy, forward-looking and soundly based machine tool industry. In order to achieve this, Government participation and support on a scale approaching that of the past 20 years is probably inescapable."

It added: "Government may also need to provide support, either financial or otherwise,

where there is unfair competition from overseas."

Certainly, the Government seems more interested in maintaining a machine tool sector than does much of manufacturing industry. The latter's shortsightedness in not replacing worn-out machines with modern, British machines has contributed greatly to machine tool industry's decline. Japan has built up its enviable export record on a stable and attentive home market; in Britain, manufacturers of machine tools have had to look to increasingly difficult foreign markets to provide not the icing but the cake itself.

In an attempt to help machine tools, the Department of Industry recently launched a second Small Engineering Firms Investment Scheme (SEIS 2) backed with £100m of grants and designed to encourage the sale of high technology machines. Within days of its post-Budget launch, applications flooded into Whitehall, but only 55 per cent of them were for help to buy UK machines.

Now, machine tool makers are taking a leaf out of the motor industry's book and forging stronger links with the Japanese. The first to do so was Bridgeport Textron, one of our few remaining companies to make a profit, which recently signed a deal to make small Japanese machining centres at its Leicester factory.

Such ventures probably are a signpost to the future if Britain is to maintain a credible machine tool making sector. Certainly the UK must have access to the most up-to-date technology if it is to take part in the economic upturn, which could be imminent. Frost & Sullivan, the New York analysts, predict that metal-cutting machine tool sales throughout Europe will almost double between now and 1990 to £7,440m.

ET

SCIENCE

The men who make the machines think

Ever since the first electronic computers were developed 40 years ago, a small group of brilliant scientists have been working away in attempts to endow such machines with the ability to think. That research into artificial intelligence is sometimes regarded as the most rarified of computer science.

Certainly, at first glance, there seems little in common between the ivory-tower researches of the academics and the real-world problems of the industrialist, particularly since researchers in artificial intelligence shoot off in another direction as soon as their experiments produce ideas which look commercially useful.

Yet the search for intelligent machines has produced many of the important practical advances in applying computers in commerce and industry: the development of visual and graphic displays, timesharing, computer aided design, and visual systems for robots are among them.

Furthermore, the outbreak of enthusiasm for flexible manufacturing, or the ultimate concept in factory automation described elsewhere in this report, only became possible because of the advances made in computer aided design, CAD, and computer-aided manufacturing, CAM, techniques derived from artificial intelligence research.

Before Mrs Thatcher announced the date of the election, CAD-CAM had become one of the blue-eyed technologies with which the Government hoped to see the transformation needed to revitalise British industry. A £6m



Clothes on the move in Steinberg's warehouse at Milton Keynes

awareness scheme was launched by the Department of Industry under its information technology programme to make sure everyone in industry knew about it.

The practical applications of CAD-CAM were perfected in the United States for the aerospace industry. Exploitation by the thousands of firms in Britain which employ less than 500 people, compared with more than 5,000, is not so easy without technical help.

Hence, an even more important government-backed service for the majority of industrialists is the CAD-CAM expertise provided by the Production Engineering Research Association, at Milton Keynes.

The computer-aided design part of the technology has proved profitable in innumerable applications, because it streamlines the design process

marked £25m for research and development into flexible systems, but the other £35m is available for grants to companies. The scheme runs until 1985/6, and financial help falls into two categories.

The Government will pay 50 per cent of the cost of consultancy studies carried out by companies to find whether flexible manufacturing systems are suitable to their business, up to a maximum of £50,000. It will also pay up to 33 per cent grants towards development and capital costs of installing new machinery - and similar amounts to convert existing machines to a flexible system.

The minimum cost of a system necessary to make it eligible for financial support is £200,000, although more complicated systems will inevitably run into several million pounds. Despite this help, however, it is expected to take several years before flexible manufacturing moves from being what is still something of a futuristic concept to a routine feature of British manufacturing industry. A start has been made.

Japan and the United States have around 30 systems each already in operation and more planned. Some companies in the UK have begun to move ahead into flexible manufacturing but not enough or fast enough.

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Although the link between the design stage and the cutting machine is extremely important, there is a long way to go to achieve the vision conjured by CAD-CAM of the fully automated factory. That involves not just feeding instructions to individual cutting machines, but planning and controlling the flow of materials and components in an orderly stream.

Mr Peter Marshall, the head of PERA's research division, estimates that fewer than 5 per cent of applications of this technology come in the CAD-CAM category, the majority only cover the design work. He believes even the best practitioners of CAD-CAM among the aerospace and electronic firms are still using a number of disconnected blocks or stages of operations.

He says factory methods may seem to follow a logical flow until the time comes to write computer programs describing them and, more important, linking them together in a sequence.

The association has devised its own system, PERACAM, for converting design data into manufacturing instructions automatically. Even this will not provide a completely automated system for a firm with a highly complex sequence of factory operations.

The complete merger of CAD-CAM is more difficult to execute on a large factory-scale than on a small one. Yet once a product design has been completed, all the subsequent activities concerned with converting that data into finished products or components can be completed more quickly by applying some level of CAD-CAM automation.

Pearce Wright
Science Editor

Flexible thinking

continued from page 13

sponse in terms of interest from companies has been considerable, although the allocation of funds has so far been limited. Seventy-five applications for financial support have been made, but there have been only seven offers of funds, involving commitments of £1.2m.

Announcing the scheme, Mr Baker said: "It is estimated that at least 70 per cent of the output of the engineering sector involves batch production and flexible manufacturing offers immense cost and quality benefits". British industry had been slow to apply flexible systems, however.

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Jonathan Davis

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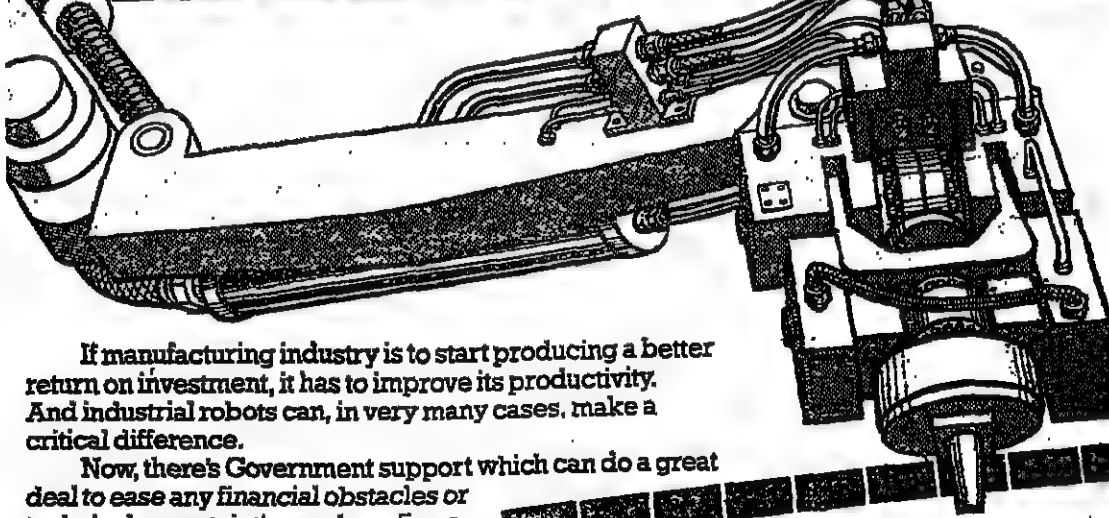
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FT 100 80.69
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Tring Mail USM Index 168.4
Telegraph Nikkei Dow Jones 8829.51
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 949.56
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average 1218.75
(Friday's close)

CURRENCIES

LONDON
Sterling \$1.5670
Index 83.9
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FF 11.5325
Yen 363.50
Dollar
Index 121.8
DM 2.4435
Gold
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Sterling \$1.5638
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INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Base rates 10
3 month interbank 10 1/4 10 1/4

Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 8 1/4 8 1/4
3 month DM 10 1/4 10 1/4
3 month FF 13 1/4 13 1/4

ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling
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Average reference rate for
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BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interims: Assets special Situations Trust, Bellway, Matthew Brown, Grand Metropolitan, Radio City (Sound of Merseyside), Thomas' Nationwide Transport (quarterly), Unilever (first quarter), United Scientific Holdings, Finsale Anglo, American Cold, Ex-Lands, Ektel Group, John Foster and Son, Geers Group, Gold and Base Metal Mines, John C. Small and Thomas, Thomas Warrington and Sons, Weeks Associates.

TOMORROW - Interims: Allied London Properties, Thomas' Northwick and Sons, General Accident Fire and Life Assurance (first quarter), Majestic Investment, Penland Investment Trust, Finsale Amos Hinton and Sons, Gieves Group, London and Lennox Trust, Mersey Docks and Harbour Company, Walter Runciman, Wearwell, Whitbread and Company.

WEDNESDAY - Interims: Carnvermore, Irish Distillers Group, Northern Industrial Improvement Trust, NSS Newsagents, Finsale Advance Services, Ambrose Investment Trust, British-Borneo Petroleum Syndicate, Chamberlain and Hill, Harwell Group, Usher Walker.

THURSDAY - Interims: Construction Holdings, Higsons Brewery, Phillips' Lamps NV (first quarter), Poly Pack, Redman, Heenan International, Royal Dutch Petroleum Co NV (first quarter), Shell Transport and Trading Company (first quarter), Stenhouse Holdings, Whitbread Investment Company, Finsale Co Health Land Securities, London Atlantic Investment Trust, London Trust, Monks Investment, Roper, Selincourt, TR Natural Resources Investment Trust.

FRIDAY - Interims: Management Agency and Music, Finsale Debenhams, A Goldberg and Sons, International Paint, Suter.

TDK moves for London listing

TDK, the Japanese recording tape company, is going ahead with its application for a London listing. Institutions are being briefed today with a meeting with Stock Exchange's quotations committee on Wednesday-dealings are expected to start a week on Friday.

TDK, which is already quoted in New York, Paris and elsewhere, has market capitalization of \$2,200m. Its business is international and it wants its shares to be held internationally. It manufactures in Japan, Taiwan, Brazil, and the US with 43 per cent of its sales outside Japan.

Sales for the year, which ended in November, were \$1,300m, an increase of 12.8 per cent. Profits were \$121m, an increase of 6.2 per cent.

ECONOMIC FORECAST: A cheerful forecast for the UK economy comes today from the Charterhouse banking group. It predicts a "soundly based" economic recovery with output rising at 3 per cent a year by the end of 1983, enough to start bringing the unemployment down. The group says although the upswing is likely to be slower than in the past, it will be more sustainable with less chance of causing faster inflation.

TRADE-IN OFFERS: Singapore Airlines (SIA) said it is studying offers from three aeroplane manufacturers to trade its existing aircraft, plus cash, for newer models. A spokesman said SIA is studying "trade-in sale" offers from Boeing, Airbus Industrie and Douglas Aircraft as part of its fleet renewal plan.

Sotheby's US bidders press on

By Jonathan Clare

The two Americans who bid for Sotheby's Parkes Bernet are to carry on with their offer despite the unexpected reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission against the advice of the Office of Fair Trading.

The two, Mr Marshall Cogan and Mr Stephen Swid of Knoll International, hold 29.9 per cent of Sotheby's and their offer values the auction house at \$61m.

Mr Cogan hopes to get the US Securities and Exchange Commission to reconsider an ambiguous 1974 ruling to make it clear that allegations about an infringement of SEC rules are unfounded. Mr Cogan settled in 1984 by signing a "consent decree", which meant he did not admit guilt but promised not to repeat the alleged offence. If successful, it would rob opponents of the Cogan-Swid bid of some of their ammunition.

It would also mean the two compared favourably with any "white knight" that the Sotheby board may produce. The board says it has found a counterbidder, whose identity is yet to be revealed. Mr Carl Kahn, a US dawn-raider, is widely believed to have shown an interest. Another likely possibility is Mr B. H. Trupin.

Mr Trupin was revealed last week in *The Times* as the buyer of the Hever Castle, suit of Milanese armour which fetched a record \$1.9m.

A stake has been built up by someone in Sotheby shares apart from Mr Cogan and Mr Swid but it remains below 5 per cent.

Posgate to sue Howden four

By Our Financial Staff

Mr Ian Posgate is suing four former directors of Alexander Howden to ensure a public airing of the facts surrounding the scandal of misappropriated insurance premiums.

Yesterday, Mr Posgate said he was taking legal action so that it would be impossible for Alexander Alexander, the US owner of Alexander Howden, which is also suing the four for recovery of funds, to reach a private settlement with the four men.

"By doing this and sticking with it everything will be aired in court," he said.

Alexander & Alexander has sued the four and Mr Posgate for the return of \$55m (\$35m) which it believes was channelled from Howden to offshore re-insurance companies. A settlement between the four directors and Alexander & Alexander would leave Mr Posgate out in the lurch.

But contrary to the impression given by Sunday newspaper reports, Mr Posgate has not started his proceedings with the support of Alexander & Alexander with which he is already involved in a counter-attack.

Mr Ken Grob, the former chairman of Howden, said yesterday the matter was being put into his lawyer's hands but would not comment on whether he and his former colleagues might reach a settlement with Alexander & Alexander.

The four have already repaid \$26m of a \$29m claim under the agreement continuing this clause. Alexander & Alexander may be prepared to make a final settlement on payment of, say, another \$10m.

Mr Posgate is suing the four on exactly the same grounds as Alexander & Alexander. "I'm suing for a straightforward cash sum. It means Alexander & Alexander cannot go away."

It also means that Mr Posgate will be able to cross-examine Mr Jack Bogardus, Alexander & Alexander's president, as well as Mr Grob, and the other directors - Mr Ron Conery, Mr Jack Carpenter and Mr Allan Page.

His next term, which begins on June 16, is likely to be even more important. In his newly enhanced role, M de Larosiere is certain to continue the strict

By Our Financial Staff

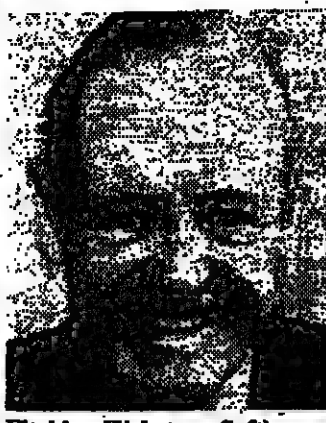
The takeover battle for Key Markets, the 106-strong supermarket chain owned by Fitch Lovell, intensified over the weekend when Linfood said that it would match an increased offer from Safeway.

Safeway said on Saturday that it was prepared to pay £40.8m for the chain, its earlier offer of £34.8m had won the approval of the Fitch Lovell board and chairman, Mr Michael Webster, in late April, but was topped last Thursday by Linfood with an offer of £37.8m.

Linfood's chairman, Mr Alec Monk, was reported over the weekend as saying that he would match the latest Safeway offer. Yesterday he was said to be attending meetings in London, and a company official said that he was likely to write to shareholders later this week.

The Fitch Lovell board also spent most of yesterday afternoon in a meeting.

Mr Monk's willingness to



Fitch's Webster (left) and Hankins: Going for the

Safeway bid.

commit himself to an increased offer for Key Markets makes it unlikely that Linfood will renew its bid for the whole of Fitch Lovell. It launched a £72m offer for the company last September, and finally received the go-ahead after a report from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission last week.

Now, however, Mr Monk has



Fitch's Webster (left) and Hankins: Going for the

Safeway bid.

said he will pay half the total of his original bid for just one part of Fitch Lovell, which suggests the purchase of the Key Markets chain was his prime reason for launching the offer. He is also said to be worried about issuing his shares, which he feels are undervalued, to buy the highly-rated Fitch Lovell.

Although the two bids would

Tactical battle expected before vote on Friday

Linfood to match Safeway's new £41m offer for Key Markets

be of equal value, Safeway currently has the support of the Fitch Lovell board, which is believed to be concerned that if Linfood successfully blocks the Safeway deal, then it might still renew its bid for the whole group.

Fitch is also concerned to push the sale through quickly: its shareholders meet on Friday to vote on it. There is a danger that if it opted for Linfood's offer at this stage, it might be withdrawn or vetoed by shareholders later on, leaving Fitch Lovell with no deal at all.

The stage is now set for a tactical battle in the run up to Friday's meeting. Linfood has asked Fitch Lovell for access to detailed information on Key Markets, but this has so far been denied - apparently at Safeway's insistence.

But even without further knowledge, it is expected to press its bid and attempt to persuade the Fitch Lovell board to adopt a neutral stance, and

City Comment

Pinball wizard at the Fed

American money policy is in a mess. The target money measures have been so grossly distorted by financial deregulation and the introduction of new financial instruments, such as interest-bearing current accounts, that no one knows what they mean.

They have ceased to bear, if they ever did, any stable predictable relationship with nominal national income growth, the ultimate policy goal for which money targets are simply an intermediate tool.

Yet, though the Federal Reserve Board has said it is paying less attention to money growth while distortions persist, it has failed to put any coherent policy rule in its place. The result is that the financial markets are baffled about what the Fed is trying to do.

Every economic trigger - the latest figures on inflation, money growth, output - touches off a gut response in the markets as they try to sense how the Fed will respond. And there must be a suspicion that this is what the Fed is doing - to - the pinball wizard approach to policy, as Mr David Morrison, of the stockbrokers Simon and Coates, characterizes it in a paper out today.

Mr Morrison, who estimates that interest rate volatility has doubled since the Fed introduced its new money control procedures in 1979, believes that rates and volatility will stay high unless the Fed changes course.

Having instilled into the markets the firm conviction that the pace of money growth determines inflation, however, Mr Paul Volcker, the Fed's chairman, faces a tough job to convince them that the money numbers are no longer critical. His task would be easier if he had something sensible to put in its place.

Boom in car sales 'set to end soon'

By David Young

The boom in UK car sales - fuelled by easier hire purchase and sales incentives - will end in the second half of the year, according to a survey published today by DRI Europe.

By then, the survey says, the present buoyant sales will run out of steam and will lead to a "playback" next year, when sales will fall by an estimated 30,000 units.

DRI says that their forecast of 1.68 million car sales this year is at least 70,000 more than underlying economic performance would suggest and point out that British manufacturers are far from happy with the profit implications of the incentive measures.

Stability should return to the market with the gradual recovery of the economy with DRI expecting a return to a more "natural" level of sales and consistent growth until 1988.

The survey adds that industrial unrest still hangs over the industry, although it adds that the success of the Metro and Maestro have transformed BIC's short-term position. The recent fall in sterling has underpinned the Maestro's competitiveness in a sector of the European market where BIC has traditionally been weak.

For Europe overall, energy,

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For Europe overall, energy,

Fears of tighter money

By Francis Williams

Economics Correspondent

The City has worked itself into a lather over the past week on fears, implanted by the latest poor money supply and government borrowing figures, that a future Conservative government will tighten money and fiscal policy and keep interest rates high, to maintain downward pressure on inflation.

This is in marked contrast to the consensus view before the election date was announced last week that a victory for Mrs Thatcher would mean a strong pound and steady progress to lower interest rates to speed economic recovery.

The balance of opinion in the City remains on the side of a further cut in clearing bank base rates by 1/2 to 1 per cent from the present 10 per cent either before or shortly after the election, on the assumption of a Conservative victory. But views on the longer term outlook are sharply divided.

A number of monetary economists in the City, such as Roger Nightingale, of stockbrokers Hoare Govett, believe that money growth over the past few months has been excessively expansionary, sparking off a credit-fuelled economic recovery which will inevitably lead to higher inflation unless stamped on soon.

But even those who take a more sanguine view of the pace of monetary expansion believe that a returned Conservative government may be obliged to tighten monetary and fiscal screws if it is to make further progress in its battle against inflation.

In particular they point to recent figures which suggest that the Government's borrowing target of £8,000m in 1983-84 may be overshoot by £1,000m or more, contributing to excessive money growth.

Mr Stephen Lewis at Phillips and Drew and Mr Michael Jankowski at Simon and Coates both expect a Thatcher government to try to cut public spending or raise taxes to keep borrowing on track, and to be increasingly reluctant to sanction further cuts in interest rates.

Others expect a Conservative government to take a more robust attitude. Mr Roger Boodie of Capel-Cure Myers argues that Mrs Thatcher will pay closer attention to the exchange rate, what is happening to inflation, and the pace of recovery than to the money figures, which are no longer the prime policy target.

If so, the outlook for interest rates is brighter. All observers expect the exchange rate to remain strong after a Conservative victory, with some, such as Lloyds Bank and Griverson Grant, predicting further rises in the coming months.

Flat results likely from Unilever

By Our Financial Staff

Flat profit and sales figures are expected from Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch margarine and detergent group, when it reports first quarter profits today.

Although the US subsidiary is at last showing a better performance the improvement has been offset by higher promotional spending.

European volumes may have been hit by lower exports to Nigeria, and worse results on translation into sterling from countries like Brazil after accounting changes are expected.

Heavy exceptional costs from rationalization are expected again, but productivity gains should be at about 5 per cent.

Combined first quarter profits of the group should be between £160m and £185m, compared with last year's £179m. Full year results are expected to be between £750m and £790m, against £725m.

The shares have seen some weakness after the company's forecast of little economic improvement this year and worries about first-half volume sales.

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APPOINTMENTS

New head for Argyll Foods

Mr Keith Suddaby has been appointed managing director of Argyll Foods Manufacturing. He will be responsible for Yorkshire Biscuits, Paterson's Scottish Shortbread, Furness & Company and Gold Crown Foods. He will be based at Gold Crown Foods in Liverpool.

Mr B. D. Bramley has been made a director of British-American Tobacco Co. Formerly managing director in New Zealand, he will assume responsibility for liaison with India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Mr T. J. Pritchard has been appointed managing director of NEI Projects, based in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Mr John Timpson, managing director of William Timpson, has been elected president of the Clothing and Footwear Institute.

Mr Roy Dorey, director designate of the institute, has assumed the duties of secretary and chief executive.

Mr G. Malcolm Murray has been appointed acting chairman of The Young Companies Investment Trust, after the death of Mr Desmond Reid.

Mr Ivor Casson is the new financial director of J. P. Kenny & Partners.

Mr K. J. Duffy ceases to be a UK divisional director of Commercial Union Assurance Company on June 30. He is to take up the post of senior executive vice president of Commercial Union Corporation, the company's United States holding company. Mr L. H. Headley, UK divisional director, returns on June 30. Mr R. A. Owen and Mr P. G. Ward, members of UK management will be UK divisional directors from June 1.

Mr Michael Myhill, marketing manager of Anglia Signs & Displays, Norwich, has joined the board as sales director.

Mr P. T. Syme has been appointed assistant managing director of Weir Pumps of Glasgow. He was previously production director.

Mr Richard Mansell-Jones has been made a non-executive director of Storage & Transport System.

Sears chief speaks on TV stake

If Sears Holdings, the Selfridges to shoe retailing group, had been offered less than a 20 per cent stake in Central Independent Television, it would have called off the deal, according to Mr Leonard Sainer, the chairman.

Mr Sainer said he was only prepared to buy the shares from Associated Communications Corporation on the basis that he received 20 per cent or more.

Mr Robert Holmes a Court, the Australian boss of Associated Communications Corporation, which was divesting itself of its controlling stake in Central, wanted considerable more than the 140p a share paid by Sears - probably well over 150p - even though Sears' price shows a big premium on the private deals done in Central's shares.

Long term, Sears expects Central to be a profitable investment. It is keen on the leisure field but finds good investments difficult to pick up.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	10 %
Barclays	10 %
BCCI	10 %
Consolidated Crds	10 %
C. Hoare & Co	10 %
Lloyds Bank	10 %
Midland Bank	10 %
Nat Westminster	10 %
TSS	10 %
Williams & Glyn's	10 %

Greene launch aims to thwart stags

Brokers Greene & Co. announced details of their fourth introduction to the USM since the market was established in 1980.

This time Greene are using their knowledge of high technology industry to arrange the offer of 3.3 million shares at 120p in Stainless Metalcraft, a family run medical equipment and defence manufacturer.

The application list for the shares opens on Friday, and dealings should commence a week later. At a press conference organized to reintroduce the share offer, Sir Edward Brown from Greene, said that at least half the issue will be taken by leading City institutions.

The exact allocation of the rest will depend on the quality of applications received, he said. The aim would be to weed out professional stags and encourage genuine small investors.

The Childs family, which set up the company in 1958, decided to make the share offer when it became necessary to reorganize family finances.

At one stage the whole company was put up for sale, but later Greene & Co. persuaded the family that the USM introduction would allow it to raise funds and continue its involvement in the company.

Stainless Metalcraft comes to the market with a £6m market capitalization and is forecasting pretax profits of £850,000 for the year to August against £695,000 for the previous year.

News of another introduction to the market came from brokers Simon & Coates who are offering for sale 5 million shares in Adam Leisure Group, which sells electronic games.

The shares are on offer at 80p each and represent 20 per cent of the share capital of a company founded and owned by Mr Chris Tycroft, the chairman and chief executive.

They are being offered for sale on Friday and trading will begin on May 26.

The group is forecasting pretax profits of £3m for the year ending August 31, against £1.2m for the previous year, on sales of £21m. At a minimum tender price of 80p, the shares will yield 3.57 per cent and a price earning ratio of 13.88.

Details also emerged of a placing of 3,600,000 shares in Castle (GB), the fitted kitchen and bathroom sales and distribution company.

The placing has been arranged by Charterhouse Japhet

which has nursed the company towards the USM since taking a 27 per cent stake for £327,000 in 1980.

The Castle board is forecasting pretax profits of not less than £1.1m for the year to July. Last year the group made pretax profits of £902,000 on a turnover of £10.1. At 80p the group would be on a prospective P/E of 16.43.

This morning, trading begins in shares of Chemical Methods Associates, a US group which makes and distributes commercial washing machines. The group offered for sale 3.6 million shares at 115p a share, which was 15 times overvalued, and placing 3.6 million shares at 115p. The group is forecasting profits of not less than \$4m this year (£2.6m).

Trading also begins this week in shares of Milers Focus Group, the USM's first share sale by tender. Last week the offer sale of 2.3 million shares in the group was three times oversubscribed and a striking price of 240p was fixed against a base price of 155p.

Other news on the USM included a statement from USM from Good Relations, the public relations and advertising company, at its annual meeting last Wednesday, its shares rose by 2p to 199p after a report that the improved economic climate would lead to a greater demand.

There is also an announcement the morning from AIDCOM International, which has acquired a 65 per cent stake in World Medical Markets, an information and publishing company, for £140,000.

Mr James Pilditch, chairman, of AIDCOM, said that the WMM business has substantial growth potential and is an obvious extension of AIDCOM's existing marketing and research activities. AIDCOM's shares stood at 79p on Friday.

Andrew Cornelius

Unlisted Securities

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chgs	Gross	Div	Yield
£10,000	A & G Security	280	-10	2.5	6.4	53.9
10,000	Acis Jewell	170	-	3.2	2.1	1.1
8,075,000	Aerospaces Ene	170	-	13.9	8.2	16.1
11,000	Acis Jewell	290	-	3.2	1.1	1.1
11,000	Acis Jewell	290	-	3.2	1.1	1.1
11,000	Acis Jewell	290	-	3.2	1.1	1.1
11,000	Acis Jewell	290	-	3.2	1.1	1.1
11,000	Acis Jewell	290	-	3.2	1.1	1.1
11,000	Acis Jewell	290	-	3.2	1.1	1.1
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Smith set to open New York office

From Michael Clarke, New York

Smith Brothers, one of the stock market's two publicly quoted jobbing firms, is pressing ahead with plans to open an office in New York. Wall Street's broking fraternity sources say they have already been sounded out by Smith, which is attempting to gauge local sentiment.

Mr Tony Lewis, chairman of Smith, and fellow director Mr Michael Marks, arrived in New York last week to look at possible office sites. They appear to have settled for premises in Broadway, the heart of the financial centre, and just up the road from rivals Wedd Duriacher.

Smith already has an office on the West Coast and hopes to use New York as the central point between its London and Los Angeles offices.

Smith, which specializes in gold shares, has spent the last 18 months planning for its New York debut. The group hopes it can soothe the fears of other US broking firms, already disturbed by the invasion of British brokers, by employing experienced US staff.

There has been a dramatic slowdown in the rate of vacant warehouse and factory space coming on to the market. Although latest King & Company Industrial floorspace survey reveals a total of 177.6 million sq ft of vacant space available for letting, the rise since December has been only 1.42 per cent.

This compares favourably with the expansion of vacant space almost three years ago when the rate was rising by as much as 35 per cent every four months.

The chartered surveyors report a decrease in new construction work during the period, down from 1.3 million sq ft to 1.17 million sq ft. But they indicate that the level of inquiries and lettings has been growing rapidly since the beginning of the year.

Mr James King, senior partner, said yesterday that during the first four months of this year inquiries for industrial accommodation were running at twice the rate of the same period a year ago. Take-up of space is also double last year's level, he added.

In some industrially hard-pressed areas, such as the West Midlands, there has been a reduction in the amount of industrial space available for letting, the report shows. Since December vacant warehouse and factory space has fallen from 27.6 million sq ft to 26.3 million sq ft.

But the West Midlands has been the centre of a re-roofing campaign, by some landlords and developers in protest over the local councils decision to levy rates on empty property. Since the beginning of April some councils have now waived rate charge on vacant space.

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Money surge hits loan rate hopes

A sharp rise in the money supply and continued evidence of strong economic expansion are expected to arrest any decline in United States interest rates and inhibit any weakening of the dollar this week.

The stock market boom since last August, which has brought a rise of about 60 per cent in average stock prices, is also under threat. The performance of stocks over the past week has been spotty.

Analysts are insisting that a correction of large proportions - 10 to 15 per cent - is near.

Leading the pack since May 5 has been Mr John Mendelson of Morgan Stanley who picked the bottom of the market last May.

At that time, Mr Mendelson forecasts of a "buying panic" for stocks and bonds was held. It was, however, vindicated by events.

Now Mr Mendelson forecasts: "The first leg of this bull market is coming to an end." He expects a decline of 10 to 15 per cent into the summer and a period of consolidation over the next four to five months. "The market levels of early 1983 will be the highs for most of the year."

Sharp improvements in the rate of growth of the United States economy were released last week.

Retail sales last month rose a strong 1.6 per cent, after seasonal adjustment. This came after a revised 1.7 per cent rise in March retail sales, originally reported as a rise of only 0.3 per cent.

The size of the revision to the original retail sales figures was a shock leading to gloomy talk about low spending by consumers.

On Friday, the Federal Reserve Board announced that industrial production last month rose a 2.1 per cent, the biggest single monthly increase since August 1975.

Then at the close of business the car sales figures for the first 10 days of this month were released. These were also bullish.

The seasonally adjusted annual rate of domestically produced car sales rose to a high 6.9 million, in the first 10 days this month, coming after rates of 6.2 million last month and 6.3 million in March.

The producer (wholesale) price index for last month showed a fall of 0.1 per cent, the third fall so far this year.

The fall brought the level of the producer price index back to that of last September.

All this good news turned to ash, however, when the money figures for the week of May 4 were released on Friday. This showed a rise of \$4.2bn (£2.6bn) in Money M1. A rise so large that it will frighten and depress the financial markets, which had hoped that the slow money growth for the nine weeks to April 27 would lead to a drop in the discount rate charged by the Fed to 8 per cent from the 8.5 per cent level at which it has been stuck since mid-December.

The announcement of the increase in M1, however, rules out any such reduction during this month.

Earlier, there were fears that this month's money figures had been abnormally low, to the result in large measure of the Fed's decision to alter the seasonal adjustment factors for last month.

On May 5, the Fed had also given the financial markets more bad news with the release of big changes to the seasonal adjustment factors for "non-borrowed" reserves of the banks, a leading indicator of monetary growth.

The revisions led to a drastic rise in non-borrowed reserves growth during April and into May, indicating that a previously hoped-for decline in money growth might not happen.

It now remains to be seen whether the Fed can regain control of money growth sufficiently to prevent this recovery from developing into yet another inflationary boom, to be followed by yet another recession.

Maxwell Newton

Banks save top watch companies

Zurich (Reuters) - A consortium of Swiss banks is to provide 600m Swiss francs (£191.5m) to fund a merger between the country's two leading watch-making groups, according to banking sources.

They say it will be the biggest rescue operation in Swiss industrial history.

A merger between Allgem. Schweizerische Uhrenindustrie (Asug) and Societe de Suisse Four L'Industrie Horlogere (SSIH) would create the world's second largest manufacturer after Japan's Seiko group.

Both companies have made sizeable losses in recent years. The banks provided Sfr300m two years ago to prevent SSIH going bankrupt after its 1980 losses exceeded share capital and reserves.

Swiss Bank Corporation, Union Bank of Switzerland and Swiss Volksbank are among those involved in the new support operation, the banking sources said.

The new support operation is likely to consist of write-offs on claims by the banks on the two groups, provision of new capital and an opening of new credit lines, the sources said.

The banks have agreed in principle to the plan, but some have not yet confirmed their formal approval.

Details are due to be announced on May 26, once the boards of both groups have confirmed the merger.

The banks hold a majority of shares in both groups. Swiss Bank Corporation is the largest shareholder in Asug and Union Bank of Switzerland in SSIH.

Asug's main brands are Rado and Longines, while SSIH produces Omega and Tissot.

The Swiss watch manufacturing industry has suffered from world overproduction, competition from cheap producers in the Far East and the effects of recession.

When the market is rising, it is much easier for investors to pick winners. Mr Peter G. Greenan, index specialist at Shearson-American Express, says. But when the market declines or moves in a sideways pattern for any length of time, many more investors will need the index products to insure their portfolios against losses.

Of the two new instruments, index options have become the most popular. Traders say the options took a quick lead over futures after the appeared last Fall.

One reason analysts are confident that the index markets will continue to grow is that the new instruments arrived when the stock market began its extraordinary rise.

There is simple explanation for the success of the new financial instruments, according to John M. Bin, partner in Stratkin Investments and architect of several financial futures and options markets.

The index markets provide investors with insurance against one of their two major problems: market moves that could adversely affect the shares they own or which they have sold short. The other problem, picking the right stocks, will always be with us, Mr Bin says.

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Rustenberg to halt platinum promotion

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

South Africa-based Rustenberg Platinum Mines, which has spent more than £4m in four years promoting platinum jewellery, is halting all its promotion in Britain. At the end of this month it is closing its London-based Platinum Guild as a promotions coordination centre.

The move comes after the launching of its latest Moon Goddess advertising campaign for platinum jewellery produced by the Davidson Pearce agency.

Platinum jewellery sales have been hit in a jewelry sales sector, worth about £650m a year, which is still affected by recession.

Halfmarked platinum articles by weight were down 19.8 per cent last year, compared with 1981, while silver items were down only 8.4 per cent and those in gold rose by 5.9 per cent.

Jewelry makers have been able to offset some of the decline in sales of gold jewelry by turning to cheaper 9 carat gold instead of using the traditional 14 carat and 22 carat metal. This has increased the price disadvantage for platinum which in finished items has been costing 30 per cent more, compared with comparable private deals done in Central's shares.

First quarter returns from assay offices this year show that gold jewelry sales are also down. Gold items by weight were down 25 per cent on the same period of last year, while silver halfmarked goods were more than 26 per cent lower.

Platinum halfmarked goods, ironically the least affected of

the three, were down 18 per cent.

But Rustenberg says the market in Britain can no longer sustain heavy promotional spending. Rustenberg says it cannot force, even if economic conditions improve, a level of platinum jewellery sales in Britain sufficient to warrant further promotional expenditure.

Rustenberg, one of the two key world producers of platinum, launched its promotional campaign in 1975 when halfmarked for platinum jewellery first started in Britain.

By 1979 sales of halfmarked platinum goods had reached 3,099 troy ounces. But the next year, when 4,916 troy ounces were halfmarked, proved the high point.

There was a decline in 1981 to 4,398 ounces and last year sales fell by a fifth to 3,526 ounces. This was barely 14 per cent more than was halfmarked in 1979.

Rustenberg says it foresees a continued demand for platinum jewellery. There is similar optimism at Ayrton Metals, the British subsidiary of Impala, the other big platinum producer which is also based in South Africa.

Ayrton has not spent as heavily as Rustenberg on promotion but it has a Platinum Shop in London's Bond Street and a wholesale operation, the Platinum Shop Collection, which is reported to be successful. Ayrton is planning no changes in its operation in Britain.

And large companies without any civil engineering work had three months ago.

But companies with work report healthier order books with some slight improvements in both value and volume terms, the federation says.

Overall, however, the level of work continues to remain extremely low.

Prospects do not look good either. The federation reports that invitations to tender have fallen recently

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COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Hunting Gibson
Year 1982
Pretax profit, £2.2m (£3.4m)
Stated earnings, \$3.5m (£2.21p)
Turnover, £14.5m (£18.8m)
Net final dividend, 4p, making 6p (same)

Flatline Roata
Half-year to 31/3/83
Pretax profit, £1.3m (£4.00m)
Turnover, £2.3m (£1.7m)
Net interim dividend, 0.75p (0.5p)
Dividend payable July 29

Reliant Motor
Half-year to 31/3/83
Pretax profit, £11.0m (£84.00m loss)
Stated earnings, 0.2p (1.5p loss)
Turnover, £5.6m (£5.1m)
Net interim dividend, nil

Anglo-Indonesian Corporation
Year 1982
Pretax profit £240,000 (£36,000 loss)
Stated loss 0.67p (1.66p)
Turnover, £5.6m (£5.7m)
Dividend payable July 23

M. J. Gleeson Group
Half-year to 31/12/82
Pretax profit, £1.3m (£683,000).
Stated earnings, 10.35p (8.36p).
Turnover, £3.6m (£3.7m).
Net interim dividend 1.3p (1.1p).
Dividend payable July 8.

Amber Day Holdings
Half-year to 27/11/82
Pretax profit, £230,000 (£722,000).
Stated earnings, 0.72p (3.58p).
Turnover, £3.6m (£3.7m).
Net interim dividend nil.
Dividend payable July 29.

Scottish Heritage Trust
Year to 1982
Pretax profit £143,000 (£757,000).
Stated earnings 2p (7.0p).
Turnover, £21

MOTOR RACING: CHAMPION SETS A PACE TOO BLISTERING FOR HIS OWN GOOD

Rosberg is the master of Monaco

From David Miller

30 minutes to go to the start of the Monaco Grand Prix and it is raining. A mile out to sea a blue-grey mist clouds the horizon. It is now, in the pits, that the race will probably be won and lost.

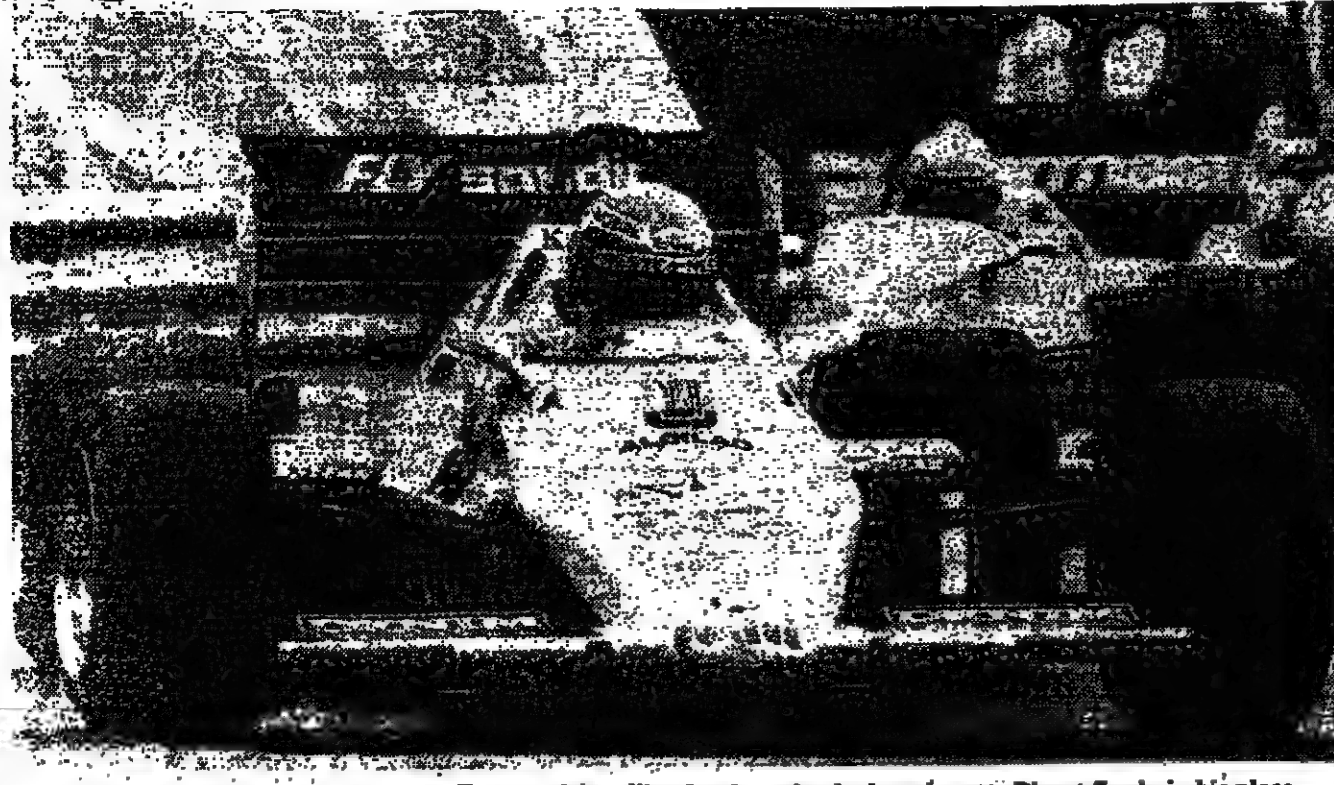
A vast crowd are gathered in the Principality, maybe 250,000 or more, spilling up the slopes from the water's edge, perched on every balcony, ledge, rock and rooftop until it looks like some Galapagos island of multi-coloured, migrating birds. And while they perch 20 team managers must make the decision, wet tyres or dry. The marshals' patrol car emphasises the point by spinning back to front, causing a nervous laugh.

The starters have assembled out on the grid, all the turbos, including the Renaults and the Ferraris on the front two rows, with wet tyres because of their colossal kick, some frantically changing after the warm-up lap. The World champion, Keke Rosberg, in his Cosworth-Williams, fifth on the grid, does his reconnaissance lap - and keeps his dry tyres.

By the end of the first lap of the race Rosberg has taken all four turbos in front, never to be challenged again. The rain holds off and by the time the others switch, it is too late. Rosberg will drive like a master.

In that first lap Nigel Mansell (Lotus) has collided with Alboreo's Tyrrell and his performance for Monaco goes sharply into reverse. Behind Rosberg all the leaders maintain their original sequence on the grid, though after five laps René Arnoux (Ferrari) is in serious trouble, limping in with a shredded tyre, and by lap eight, Jacques Laffite has moved up to make it one and two for Williams.

With a third of the race gone the threat to the Williams stable



A Finn going flat out for the finish: Rosberg drives like the champion he is as he puts Piquet firmly in his place

comes from Marc Surer (Aston Martin), believe it or not, the Hampshire outfit of Derek Warwick and his Toleman turbo.

So the race proceeds, the power of the turbos making your toes tingle inside your shoes as the teams' comic rocketing out of Basca's corner. Down in the Williams pit Rosberg's girl-friend stands in a ring of spent cigarette ends, endlessly licking dry lips with a dry tongue, watching the TV monitor, occasionally taking the lap times on his watch, which she is wearing and which swamps her wrist.

She barely glances at the green-and-white car as it hurries

past, peeling off the laps slowly, it seems, at an average 86mph round those tortuous hairpins. Suddenly, with two thirds of the race gone, the outsider Warwick tries to take Surer on the harbour straight; their wheels torch and Surer swerves back to first go in the six-hour race. Each will politely blame the other but they are out. Some say if Warwick had bided his time, with the subsequent retirement of Laffite through engine trouble, he could have been third.

The blonde girl in the faded jeans and flat pink ballet shoes holding Rosberg's watch pulls her ankle around her shoulder and slowly shakes her head. She is as yet unaware that

Rosberg's hands are severely blistered inside his flame-proof gloves from the huge kickback on the steering wheel as he comes out of the hairpins, and from the 2,000-odd gear changes.

Four laps later Laffite comes in, gear-box gone. He wrenches off his helmet, balaclava suit. Dark hair matted with sweat down his back and arms, he is gaunt, looking his 40 years and more. He drinks from a bottle as if it were his last and the pit signals to Rosberg: 48-second lead on Piquet with 20 laps to go. He can nurse those blisters, and the tyres, which have only a 20 per cent margin. Just occasionally the girl holding his

watch glances at the mechanics and smiles. It is all over until next time.

MONACO GRAND PRIX: 1. K. Rosberg (P) Williams FW18C 2. N. Piquet (F) Renault 5. J. Mansell (L) Lotus 6. M. Surer (A) Toleman 7. J. Laffite (F) Renault 8. J. Villeneuve (F) Renault 9. J. Jabouille (F) Renault 10. J. St. Pierre (F) Renault 11. J. Dumalo (F) Renault 12. J. Guichet (F) Renault 13. J. Dornan (F) Renault 14. J. de Villiers (F) Renault 15. J. de Villiers (F) Renault 16. J. de Villiers (F) Renault 17. J. de Villiers (F) Renault 18. J. de Villiers (F) Renault 19. J. de Villiers (F) Renault 20. J. de Villiers (F) Renault.

New date for bout
Soul (AP) - A World Boxing Council light flyweight title bout between Chang Chong-Ku, the champion, and Masaharu Inami of Japan, will now take place on June 12.

EQUESTRIANISM

By Jenny MacArthur

Nick Skelton, on Mr Terry Clements' St James, won the £3,000 first prize in yesterday's Modern Affairs Classic Grand Prix, the most valuable show jumping event at the Royal Windsor Horse Show, Pam Dunning was second on Fearless, owned by Griffin and Brand, on which she was at Hickstead.

Skelton's wife, Sarah, riding her own Sherwood, came third. The rain held off yesterday but the going was sticky. Mrs Skelton was the first to go in the six-hour event, followed by a number of jump-off and produced a flawless clear round in the 14-year-old Sherwood in 41.35 sec. Robert Smith, on Sayo Shining Example, and Gary Gillingham, on Goldlink, both had a fence down, by Pam Dunning then rode a superb round on Fearless in 40.02 sec. John Whitaker on Novillebird also had one down but Skelton, the fast go, made no mistakes and a brilliant round in 39.72 sec gave him the first place.

St James was not his usual self at the World Cup meeting at Vienna last month, but is now back on top

position. George Bowman finished second - it was only the second outing for his team of grey Lippizzans - and third was Peter Munt, with his team of grey Lippizzans.

Earlier, the Harrod's international driving grand prix for teams of four was won by the Dutch team, HRT Prince Philip and George Bowman, at the start of yesterday's first obstacle test. This meant that, despite having two cones down (20 penalties), he retained his lead.

Prince Philip, driving his team of three home-bred Cleveland bay Oldenburgs and one Dutch-bred bay, incurred 10 penalties for knocking down a cone, which pushed him down to fourth position.

Watkins clings on
Fort Worth (Reuters) - Bobby Watkins returned a four-over-par 74 on Saturday, 10 strokes higher than his round on Friday, but still retaining a share of the lead in the Colonial National invitation tournament.

Leading final scores
Colonial National Invitation: 1. B. Watkins (USA) 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

Fortune out of sand for Banks
By Peter Ryde
A surprise winter and a local one, Charles Banks, emerged from an uncertain and exciting final afternoon as winner of the Barbazon Trophy at the Royal Welsh Open, held yesterday. Banks finished with a 70, an outstanding score which was improved on only once in the tournament.

The Nottinghamshire stroke-and-putting champion, scored halves of 35 and owed his victory to getting down in two from a bunker on the last hole. He played at a hole which all week has played at a level a five to a four. He came from five strokes behind with a round to go, and birdied the 70th and 71st holes to finish at a level of six. His previous best at national level was 111 in this event a year ago.

Stephen Keppeler, having had one of the very few 134 and also having birdied the 70th, came to the last tee with a lead of two strokes. He showed a tendency to book - but his short game looked deadly most of the time and kept him with the lead until the 70th hole, when he birdied to take a hole which all week has played at a level a five to a four. He came from five strokes behind with a round to go, and birdied the 70th and 71st holes to finish at a level of six. His previous best at national level was 111 in this event a year ago.

Boxing
The British heavyweight title bout between Neville Meade and David Pearce, originally planned to take place last November in London and now scheduled for Cardiff on June 15, may be off altogether.

WATER POLO
MALAYSIA: European Championships: USSR 8, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1. Hungary 11, United States 5, Spain 5.

GOLF
CHATTANOOGA: 1. C. Bohn 67, 67, 69, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925,

University Appointments

LAW
LECTURER

(fixed term - one year)

(Constitutional Law / European Law)

Salary: £23,375 - £13,505

per annum.

Requests (quoting Ref. A32) for details and application form to Staffing Office, UWIST, P.O. Box 68, Cardiff CF1 3XA.

Closing date: 3 June 1983.

UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE

Department of Biocience and Biotechnology

Food Science Division

LECTURESHIP

Applications are invited from practising food scientists for a Lectureship in the Food Science Division of the Department of Biocience and Biotechnology. Whilst all applications in this division are considered, preference will be given to candidates having practical experience in the Food Industry, lecturing experience at university level, a higher degree in an appropriate subject, and established ability in research. Experience in several of the following areas would be an advantage:

General analysis of foods (particularly physical), assessment of organoleptic quality and food texture, food processing and control systems, use of micro-processors and computers, meat and poultry science and technology.

Further particulars (quoting reference 17/83) are available from the Academic Staff Office, McCaig Building, 16 Richmond Street, Glasgow G1 1XQ.

Applications (with copies together with full curriculum vitae and the names of three referees) should be sent to Academic Staff Office by June 10, 1983.

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

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HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY

"NEW BLOOD" AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LECTURESHIPS

Applications are invited for the following lectureships funded under the U.K. "New Blood" and Information Technology schemes. Applicants for the former should normally be under 35 years of age. The posts are tenable from 1st October 1983.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

The Department of Physics has major research projects in the field of electrical engineering and computer science. It is seeking to recruit a Lecturer in the field of electrical engineering and computer science. The successful candidate will be expected to participate in the teaching of physics and also in the overall teaching of the Department which includes the teaching of physics, chemistry, and engineering.

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Escaping the academic trap

The Times guide to career choice

By their final year, many students in higher education feel trapped by their academic discipline. Some are concerned that their job choice will be limited because of the specialist nature of their subject. Many more, reading subjects which no longer particularly interest them, fear they may be trapped into a course-related career from which they will derive little if any personal satisfaction.

This fear is widespread. One study of university students in their final year found that 80 per cent wished they were reading a different degree subject. This is understandable. From the age of 13 or 14 we are making choices - first O and then A level subjects and then our higher education course - choices which progressively narrow our options.

In many countries, where most courses in higher education are vocationally oriented, employers expect candidates to have directly relevant qualifications for each specific type of work. Thus, the disciplinary trap is very real. British higher education, degree courses in particular, is more academically oriented - subsequent vocational training being given by employers. Therefore most jobs, apart from medicine, veterinary science or those with a high scientific or technological content, are open to those of almost any discipline. Employers are primarily interested in the level of qualification (e.g. a degree) rather than the subject of the qualification.

Although some types of work, mainly in scientific and technical fields, are open only to those with relevant academic subjects, the majority of vacancies are open to those of any discipline. Those who wish to escape from their course subjects can usually do so quite easily.

For instance, in recent months I have talked to graduates in law, microbiology, philosophy, theoretical physics and politics all working in marketing, geology, history, and engineering graduates in chartered accountancy, and chemistry, economics and modern languages graduates in personnel. On first entering employment, each had undergone a substantial programme of formal training and planned work experience. For their employers, the real value of their academic studies is their acquisition of the intellectual skills of organizing, evaluating and communicating complex information and their degree a measure of their potential to acquire vocational skills.

On the other hand, those who have

taken more vocationally oriented degree courses - especially medicine, veterinary science and B.Ed degrees - will find these are not so widely acceptable outside the relevant professions. Similarly, most diploma and certificate courses are not highly regarded outside their own specialist field. There is a greater risk of being trapped by a vocational course than there is in an academic course.

There are regular demands that British education should become more vocationally oriented. This would certainly relieve employers of much of the very high cost of training. However, such a change could have two serious consequences. First, most of those entering higher education would eventually become trapped by their discipline and many would end up in occupations which do not motivate or interest them. Secondly, it has proved impossible in any country to anticipate and match the supply and demand for specific disciplines - thus we have surpluses of some and shortages of others. If we reduce the existing high level of transferability from academic to occupational disciplines, we lose a vital flexibility.

Because employers are at present more interested in level of our studies than their content, we are rarely trapped by our subject and have a wide variety of career options.

The credit side of banking

Edward Fennell reports on a scheme to launch the high fliers

Competition between the banks to attract the highest calibre graduates is intensifying. Although banking generally, whether in the City or the high street, is heavily oversubscribed, it is clear that only a tiny fraction of the many thousands of applicants meet the stringent recruiting standards. Vacancies are therefore going begging because not enough of the brightest people come forward.

With so much competition the less popular high street banks are having to work done by hand to secure their share of the elite. According to Mr A.J. Fitness, careers adviser at the City University, there is a well established pecking order, with the merchant banks at the top, the international banks second and the clearing banks at the bottom. The clearing banks themselves admit that they have a lacklustre image. "A lot of graduates think that clearing banks mean being in a cage in Wigan, so it doesn't attract the best graduates that they might apply to," said the graduate recruitment manager of one of the big four.

To strengthen their position in the graduate recruitment market, Barclays last year introduced a new management training scheme which incorporates a two-year masters

course at Henley Management College.

Barclays reckon that this will not only give them the edge over the other high street banks but will also put them on even terms with the merchant banks in competing for the best business graduates.

The new management training scheme is aimed at attracting the men and women who, ultimately, will fill the top 40 management jobs in the bank. This new development means that successful candidates will become assistant managers after a mere two and a quarter years and then go on to Henley.

Whether this new initiative will bring in the right calibre is the right numbers remains to be seen. Last year only 34 of the 45 places were filled, and Barclays refused to compromise on standards. "It is intended as a high quality scheme, and that's what it will be," Barclays say. "The whole point of it is that we get people who can be stretched. We need elastic bands, not damp pieces of string."

In seeking out the very best candidates, Barclays may have in

mind the ex-public school and Oxbridge candidates who still make up the bulk of the merchant banks' recruits. There is a strong feeling among graduate and careers advisers alike that without this traditional blue-chip background there is little chance of getting into the most prestigious banks. Consequently the real meritocracy (the "brightest comprehensive" students who go to Essex University) are turning to the international - particularly American - banks who are reckoned to be more open-minded about whom they will accept.

"You don't need the right connection or family background to get into an American bank," said Mr Fitness. "You just need to be a very, very good candidate." The other alternative is to qualify as an accountant or a lawyer or to work for a stockbroker, and then join a bank.

Interestingly, the success of the American banks in scooping up the most able is also causing problems for Civil Service recruiters in their search for administrative trainees. They are glamorous and offer the chance of foreign travel. Particularly to the States," said Mr Fitness. "No wonder they are popular."

The University of Birmingham

FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY

RESEARCH FELLOW - DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS UNIT

Applications are invited for the post of Research Fellow in the Department of Medicine, Cancer Clinical Trials Unit, University of Birmingham. The successful candidate will be expected to participate in the teaching of medicine and also in the overall teaching of the Department which includes the teaching of physics, chemistry, and engineering.

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FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

TEMPORARY LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING MATHEMATICS

Applications are invited for the post of Temporary Lecturer in the Department of Engineering Mathematics for a period of three years from October 1983.

The successful candidate will be expected to participate in the teaching of mathematics in the Department and also in the overall teaching of the Department which includes the teaching of physics, chemistry, and engineering.

The Department provides a range of courses for undergraduate and postgraduate students in the Faculty of Engineering. The Department is also involved in the development of research and development projects in the field of engineering.

Further particulars (quoting reference 17/83) are available from the Academic Staff Office, McCaig Building, 16 Richmond Street, Glasgow G1 1XQ.

Applications (with copies together with full curriculum vitae and the names of three referees) should be sent to Academic Staff Office by June 10, 1983.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(University of London)

LECTURER IN MANAGERIAL ECONOMICS

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in the Department of Managerial Economics, Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London. The successful candidate will be expected to participate in the teaching of economics and also in the overall teaching of the Department which includes the teaching of physics, chemistry, and engineering.

The Department provides a range of courses for undergraduate and postgraduate students in the Faculty of Engineering. The Department is also involved in the development of research and development projects in the field of engineering.

Further particulars (quoting reference 17/83) are available from the Academic Staff Office, McCaig Building, 16 Richmond Street, Glasgow G1 1XQ.

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Aerobatic fighter pilot killed in crash

A pilot was killed yesterday at an aerobatic display when his replica Second World War fighter aircraft crashed in front of nearly 40,000 spectators.

The American Mustang fighter had thrilled the crowd at Barton airfield, on the outskirts of Manchester, with a 10-minute series of passes and rolls executed at speed over a copse of trees. Then the engine appeared to cut out and the aircraft nose-dived into a farm field, narrowly missing a farmhouse.

Mr John Connor, an off-duty fireman, ran to the spot and dug into the wreckage with his hands to reach the pilot but when he finally broke into the smashed cockpit he found the pilot was dead.

The accident occurred during the Manchester Air Show which staged 40 aerobatic acts.

Officials at first thought the pilot was the owner of the Mustang, Mr Robert Mitchell of Sutton Coldfield, but minutes later they discovered there had been a last minute switch of pilots. Mr Mitchell had been scheduled to fly the aircraft but bad weather had delayed his arrival from Biggin Hill where he had taken part in the air show.

The dead man was Mr Michael Watkins, aged 45, of Dunchurch, Rugby. A Department of Trade inquiry is to be held.

The two-day Biggin Hill air show in Kent ended last night with police reporting heavy traffic, in spite of the rain, but no incidents. The police said the wet weather and greasy roads in London and the South-east had not deterred visitors to the show, which attracts attendances of up to 100,000. "Everything has gone very smoothly," a spokesman added.

India 'to fit Exocets to Jaguars'

Delhi, (AP) - India is to use the French Exocet AM39 anti-ship missile on its British-built Jaguar deep penetration aircraft following an agreement with France, the United News of India reported.

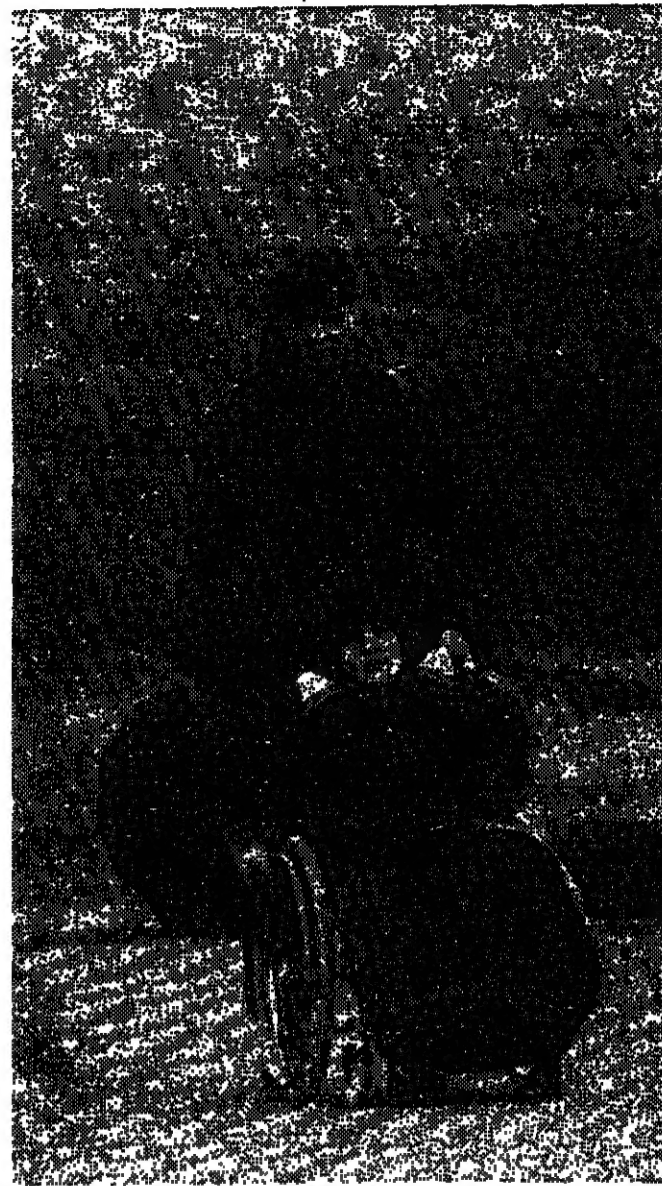
The news agency quoted defence sources as saying that Exocet-fitted Jaguars would have "a new punch and could very effectively be deployed for maritime strike roles as well."

Ten Tors tortures youngsters

The twenty-fourth annual Ten Tors expedition across Dartmoor at the weekend claimed many casualties. More than 500 of the 2,400 entrants, aged between 14 and 19, were forced to drop out by injury and the harsh weather; one boy, Ronald Wheeler, of Eastbourne, was burnt by an exploding gas cylinder which destroyed a tent; and another, Gary Kent of Plymouth, was found suffering from hypothermia after being separated from his colleagues.

The Army, which organizes the two-day event, says it is a test of endurance and a chance for young people to taste adventure. It is run by teams of four over three courses of 35, 45 and 55 miles. The photographs, by Nick Rogers, show the start and a Junior Leader helping Clare Goster, aged 15, through the special handicapped event, which was added in 1977.

The first team to complete the 35-mile course was Exeter School Combined Cadets. Exeter's Operation Dartmoor was first home in the 45-mile event; and RAF Halton first in the 55-mile event.



Britain wants deal on rebate before election

Continued from page 1

Herr Hans-Dietrich, the West German minister who hosted the weekend meeting, said afterwards that it was agreed by all that he could say everyone had been "encouraged" by the discussions on the difficult question.

At the Brussels meeting an attempt would be made to "define problems and take decisions in certain areas" in order to make it possible for a deal to be struck by the Stuttgart summit on June 6.

But the whole subject, he admitted, was "highly sensitive in some countries". He did not say "too much" about the consultations over the week to come "for fear of risking everything".

The essential argument is between Britain, which wants its money now, and those countries led by France, which insist on there being real progress on a new way to finance the community, before agreeing a figure for a British rebate.

Negotiations on the long-term deal will be long and hard unless Britain and West Germany make a major concession and agree to raise the ceiling on the amount of money that can legally be claimed by the community.

Raising the ceiling is important for countries with strong farming interests, which are worried that their farmers would suffer if reforms to the

finances are agreed within the existing cash limits.

Britain, which is leading the crusade to hold down farm spending, is fundamentally opposed to any increases in the community's income until a better way of controlling the common agricultural policy is agreed.

Agriculture ministers meet in Brussels again today in another attempt to agree farm prices for 1983. Mr Genscher gave a warning yesterday that it would be very serious if they failed.

With regard to Central America the foreign ministers agreed that tensions were increasing. It was felt that they should look to attempts by the Mexican-led Contradista group to start talks in the area as the best hope to ease the problem. No statement was approved by the meeting on the point.

Had one been issued it could have embarrassed the United States, which does not support the Contradista initiative.

The 10 foreign ministers also expressed satisfaction over the Lebanese-Israeli draft accord for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon.

The ministers also said the EEC does not imply any acceptance of the situation in Poland while the Polish people continued to reject the system.

On Afghanistan, they condemned the brutal attack against the civil population in recent attacks north of Kabul.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Queen visits the 2nd Infantry Division at Imphal Barracks, York, 12.

New exhibitions

Rainy Days at Brig o'Turk, drawings by John Everett Millais. Fine Art Society, 12 Great King Street, Edinburgh Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 1, closed Sun (from today until June 7).

Spinners and Dyers exhibition. City Arts Centre, Market Street, Edinburgh Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (from today until June 4).

Paintings, prints and drawings by Robert Bar, George Room Gallery, Subscription Rooms, Strand, Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (from today until May 28).

Watercolours and oils by Courtney Theobald, Buckinghamshire County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury, Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 12.30 and 1.30 to 5, closed Sun (from today until June 3).

Exhibitions in progress

From Quill Pen to Microchip - The Glasgow Herald 1783 to 1983. People's Palace Museum, Glasgow, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 10 to 3; (until Dec).

80 Years On: Treasures from Galleries in the North-west acquired with the help of the National Art Collection Fund. City Art Gallery, Mosley Street, Manchester Mon to Sat 10 to 6, closed Sun; (until May 28).

Old World New World: Antiquities for the collection of Sir Henry Wellcome, City Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (until 1983).

The Art of the Print: Traditional and modern printing techniques. E. M. Flint Gallery, Lichfield Street, Walsall Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 4.45; (until May 28).

Paintings by Frederick Brill, Morris Kestelman & Frederick Gore, Norwich School of Art Gallery, St George Street, Norwich, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun; (until May 28).

Recent acquisitions of paintings, drawings, prints and sculpture. Leicestershire Museum and Art Gallery, New Walk, Leicester, Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5.30, closed Fri; (until June 5).

The Wrestling Boys: Oriental and European ceramics. Buryley House, Stamford, Lincs; Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (until Oct 2).

Dress of the Year 1963-1983. Museum of Costume, Assembly Rooms, Bath; Mon to Sat 9.30 to 6, Sun 10 to 6; (until Oct).

Talks, lectures. Shellfish and their Allies, by I. T. Buryan, Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, 2.

Art and Architecture in Ancient Macedonia, by Prof. Manolis Andronikos. Natural Philosophy Lecture Theatre, Aberdeen University, St Machar Drive, Aberdeen, 5.15.

Music. Organ recital by Peter Underwood, Coventry Cathedral, 1.05.

Anniversaries

John Sell Cotman was born at Norwich, 1782. Alfie Bakker, composer, died (May 29 new style), St Petersburg, 1910.

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week starts today. Donations may be sent to: Christian Aid, PO Box 1, London, SW9 8BH.

Our address

Information for inclusion in The Times Information Service should be sent to: Cathy James, TTIS, The Times, PO Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ.

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Nature notes

Skylarks are nesting in the grass or the young corn; the female sits, while the male sings overhead, often hovering and soaring for five minutes at a time. Their nestings grow more quickly than those of other song-birds, only staying in the nest for nine days. Male skylarks are poised to open. Cow "cock's nest", deep but flimsy, in the brambles; the female may choose one of them, or build her own. Little ringed plovers are back at gravel pits and dry reservoirs like collared doves and black redstarts, they are a species which has invaded Britain since the war. Ringed plovers, which normally breed on sandy shores, have begun to follow their smaller relatives to these inland sites.

The first hawthorn flowers are opening, rather late this year, their sweet, pungent scent hangs over the hedges. Rowan, and whitebeam flowers are poised to open. Cow parsley and Oxford ragwort begin to dominate the country roadsides. The pink spikes of the horsetail have dropped back into the grass, and in their place the second stage of the plant is growing, with its thick, ferny leaves. In the woods, wild strawberries flower alongside yellow archangel, a harmless nettle-like plant with buttery-yellow blossoms. D.M.

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Roads

London and South-east M3: Lane closures between junctions 3 (Light water) and 4 (Frimley). Surrey, M11: Southbound lane closure at junction 7 (M10 roundabout) A232: Dartford Tunnel approach road. Roadworks at junction with A226 (Blue Star roundabout); avoid at peak periods.

Wales and West A39: Lane closures at Llanidloes, Denbigh. M5: Northbound lane closures between junctions 11 (Cheltenham) and 12 (Gloucester). A5: Temporary lights on Holyhead to Betws-y-coed road at Llanfair, Gwynedd.

Midlands and East Angles M1: Lane closures at junction 16 (Northampton); junction 16 closed except exit from southbound carriageway and access to northbound. A47: Temporary signals at Wisbech, Cambridgeshire. A1: Lane closures on Stangate Hill, near Alconbury, Cambridgeshire.

Norfolk A10(M): Southbound lane closure at Aycliffe interchange. Co. Durham, A1/A6136: Various lanes closed for flyover construction on Catterick by-pass, N Yorks. A650: Bradford Road, Leeds, at M1 interchange. Only one lane at times.

Scotland M9: Lane closures between junctions 5 and 7 (Glasgow) and Kincardin Bridge). A90: Lane closures at Forth road bridge.

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Weather

A depression SW of the British Isles will drift NE to be centred over Devon.

London, SE, central E England, East Angles, E Midlands: Rather cloudy, showers outbreaks of rain, clearer later; moderate; max temp 15 to 18 (15 to 18) (50 to 65).

E Central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Northern Ireland, Lake District, Isle of Man: Mist and fog patches early; showers developing later, some prolonged; wind variable light becoming E to SE moderate; max temp 11 to 13 (52 to 55).

W Midlands, Wales, NE England: Showers or longer periods of rain, some bright intervals; wind E or SE light or moderate; max temp 11 to 13 (52 to 55).

Channel Islands, SW England: Cloudy rain at times, some heavy, perhaps thunder; wind S to SE, moderate or fresh, becoming variable; light max temp 11 to 13 (52 to 55).

Gloucester, Northern Ireland, Lake District, Isle of Man: Mist and fog patches early; showers developing later, some prolonged; wind variable light becoming E to SE moderate; max temp 11 to 13 (52 to 55).

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Letter from Portland Small-town America on parade in Maine

They like a parade in Portland. Nothing much ever happens there, save for the chaos of hideous winters, followed by the summer deluge of tourists, and parades give the feeling that something is actually going on.

Last weekend, though, something truly momentous happened, an event so auspicious that there was a parade to top all parades. It was the day they opened the Portland Museum of Art.

It is a splendid edifice, and it would be churlish to dwell on the fact that right now it is rather short of works of art to fill its acres of empty white walls. The fact is that small-town America is celebrating for all it was worth and showing that there really are at least two Americas - the brash aggressive cities, and the rest.

The celebrations went on for hours. The local band, the clowns, the ice cream man, and the hot dog stalls all took to the streets to acknowledge something so obviously mattered very dearly to the community. When the carnival reached the museum, where it seemed that half the town was assembled, there were speeches galore and everybody applauded heartily, something that simply could never happen in big-town America.

Could one imagine a New Yorker taking time out to listen to the mayor opening a museum?

There is a reason for the museum being held so dear. Portland is somewhat ashamed of itself for destroying so much of its heritage and ignoring its history, and there is an intense feeling that what is left must be saved.

It is the same throughout the United States, the best realization that what is old is obsolete it does not necessarily have to be bulldozed.

Out on Portland Head, where a lighthouse commissioned by George Washington still sends a beam scurrying across the Atlantic, there is a ruin of a beautiful old mansion that has clung to the cliff edge through scores of vicious winters.

In its way, the ruin is a symbol of how Portland is saving itself from sinking into a total lethargy about its past. For years the people ripped up ancient streets and knocked down old buildings and went berserk with road-building when "Detroit fever" struck after the turn of the century.

The old Union Station in downtown Portland, a nineteenth century granite masterpiece, made way for a boring shopping complex in the 1960s. At about the same time the old post office became a car park.

In the 1920s and 1930s it was fashionable to take off all the intricate masonry from buildings and clad the walls with wood or aluminium, a practice that has left a legacy of may look-alike houses with all the architectural delicacy of a Dagenham council estate.

Only in the 1960s when the heart of the city seemed to stop beating with the demise of Union Station did a group of women get together in somebody's parlour and start to talk about saving historic Portland. Landmarks was born, and set about teaching people what Europe has known for so long - that ruins can have a function.

The new museum of art is therefore important to the soul of Portland. Its centrepiece exhibit is